

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**62-99379-9**

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols *AN*

DATE: August 18, 1955

FROM : M. A. Jones *AN*SUBJECT: [REDACTED] *b7C*

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/21/89 BY [REDACTED] *b7C*

On August 12, 1955, [REDACTED] your office saw [REDACTED] who is preparing various reports and papers on Communist aggression for distribution to Government agencies within the Executive Branch. None of his material is for publication. Since it is difficult for the American people to understand that Russia's leaders are hoodlums, murderers, et cetera, [REDACTED] would like to draw an analogy in his writings between the Russian leaders and some vicious American criminals. He wanted to get case histories on such American criminals to use for this purpose. [REDACTED] discussed with him the following individuals:

John Dillinger, [REDACTED] Carl Hall, "Baby Face"  
Nelson, Alvin Karpis, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Ma Barker, William Earl Cook,  
Louis Buchalter, [REDACTED]

Attached are blank memoranda on these individuals with the following exceptions:

[REDACTED] although we sought and apprehended him prior to his most recent escape, the Bureau is not presently looking for him.

[REDACTED] apparently desires to portray.

In addition [REDACTED] indicated a desire for a good case illustrating a "Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde" type of criminal. For this purpose, we have included memorandum on the [REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATION: *et*

AND LETTER  
That the attached memoranda be approved and furnished to  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER 8-19-55. 62-99379- [REDACTED]

ENCLOSURES (12)

RECORDED-46

2 AUG 26 1955

INDEXED-66

DONE  
8-20-55  
TO HIS HOME  
PER HIS

August 19, 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/21/79 BY [REDACTED]

**MEMORANDUM**

**RE: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER, with aliases  
Antitrust; Harboring; Perjury**

**BACKGROUND:**

Louis "Lepke" Buchalter was born in New York City on February 6, 1897, the son of Barnett Buchalter, who had come to America from Russia and operated a hardware shop on the lower East Side of New York City. His mother was refined and well educated, and one sister was a school teacher. His brothers included a dentist and a rabbi. In his youth, Buchalter attended the public schools and assisted his father in the operation of the hardware store until his father's death in 1909. Later, the family moved to Brooklyn. After completing grade school in 1910, Buchalter obtained employment as a salesman for a concern engaged in distributing theatrical goods.

**CRIMINAL CAREER:**

Buchalter was first arrested on September 2, 1915, on a charge of burglary. Released by the grand jury, he was next arrested in January, 1916, on a similar charge, but he was again released. His first real brush with law enforcement came the following month, when he was arrested at Bridgeport, Connecticut, charged with the theft of a grip from an automobile. Following his conviction, he was sentenced to the Connecticut Reformatory at Cheshire, Connecticut, where he was received in May, 1916.

For the next dozen years Buchalter was in and out of prison on numerous occasions, being arrested on charges including burglary, armed robbery, grand larceny and consorting with criminals. During this time, he became closely associated with Jacob Shapiro, and the notorious careers of the two were closely allied thereafter.

During the early 1930's, Buchalter and Shapiro turned to the lucrative rackets which were plaguing the entire New York area. In the years that followed, they built a criminal empire seldom matched in the annals of racketeering. The activities of their mob became the subject of headline after headline in the metropolitan dailies. With the typical weapons of their ilk, they attacked the poultry, fur, artichoke and clothing industries. Brutality, violence, intimidation and vandalism were their stock in trade as they moved in on flourishing businesses. Lead pipes, stench bombs, bullets and strong-armed bandits were the tools they used.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



It was soon obvious that it was far less painful to give the outlaws their "cut" than to defy them. One New York man, sitting quietly at home, was approached by a stranger carrying a folded newspaper. Not a word was spoken as the intruder took from the newspaper a bottle of acid which he dashed into the face of the innocent victim, leaving him seriously burned and scarred for life. The owner of a business in New Jersey learned the ways of the racketeers when his plant was bombed. Buchalter's hirelings, armed with iron pipes wrapped in newspapers and with guns, staged a daring attack on the headquarters of a union while a meeting was in progress. Another enemy of the rackets was found in a ditch in Detroit, tied securely in a jackknife position.

Once established as a kingpin of this vicious empire, Louis Buchalter found it convenient and undoubtedly much safer to retire behind the scenes. He became one of the wealthiest of men, living in sumptuous luxury and directing his reign of terror from afar.

Although arrested on many occasions, he seemed to be immune to punishment. Finally, however, towards the end of 1936, authorities started to close in. In November of that year he was convicted, with Shapiro, for violation of the Federal antitrust laws. The following August, Buchalter and Shapiro were indicted, with 14 others, by a grand jury of New York City for conspiracy to extort money from clothing manufacturers. With a long list of other charges about to be leveled against him, Buchalter decided to go into hiding. He dropped out of sight, but while continuing the tremendous investigations necessary to bring him to justice, authorities directed their attention to his henchmen. Federal and local grand juries began studying in detail the methods and records of the racketeers. Buchalter's underworld associates were being forced to appear in court. Big shot mobsters in various parts of the United States were summoned to appear before grand juries. In short, "the heat was on." The hoodlums facing the grand juries realized that the whole illegitimate empire was crumbling, with Buchalter apparently about to squirm out from under it. New York authorities, however, had not forgotten him. They issued a \$25,000 reward for him, dead or alive. The investigation of the FBI to locate Buchalter was intensified, and the pressure from the underworld for Buchalter's appearance mounted. Finally, in August, 1939, Buchalter found that he could no longer hide, and he was forced to give himself up to the FBI.

#### DISPOSITION:

On December 20, 1939, Louis Buchalter was convicted upon the first of ten indictments in U. S. District Court in New York City.

Two weeks later he entered pleas of guilty to the nine remaining Federal indictments. He was sentenced to 14 years in prison and placed on probation for ten additional years. Other charges, including some for conspiracy, harboring, narcotics and antitrust violations, still remained to be disposed of. In March, 1940, he was found guilty on 15 counts of an indictment by the General Sessions Court in New York City, for which he was sentenced to a term of from 30 years to life, to be served upon completion of his Federal sentence. He commenced the latter term at Leavenworth Penitentiary in April, 1940, but the law had not finished with Louis Buchalter. He was later found guilty of murder in Kings County, New York, and on March 4, 1944, he died in the electric chair at Sing Sing.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501-64**

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK CITY

N. Y.

FILE NO.

60-302

LS

REPORT MADE AT: <b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE: <b>8-10-35</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <b>8/3-9/35</b>	REPORT MADE BY: <b>[REDACTED] b7C</b>
TITLE: <b>FUR DRESSING INVESTIGATION.</b> <b>HARRY CHANDLER with alias - FUGITIVE.</b> <b>[REDACTED] with alias - FUGITIVE.</b> <b>[REDACTED] - FUGITIVE.</b> <b>[REDACTED] with alias - FUGITIVE.</b> <b>[REDACTED] - FUGITIVE. MAX STEIN - FUGITIVE.</b> <b>[REDACTED] with aliases - FUGITIVE; et al.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE: <b>ANTITRUST</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>[REDACTED] furnishes additional information regarding alleged illegal activities of subject unions herein, also involving Morris Stein. Copies of his previous statement and statements of [REDACTED] forwarded herewith. [REDACTED] Richmond Fur Dressing Corporation, advises of threats received from union officials. Subjects Buchalter and Shapiro, out on bail, said to have gone to Europe. Efforts being made to ascertain if they obtained passports. Case as to them set for August 12, 1935. Their attorney advises Shapiro will appear but informs Buchalter is in Europe for six or seven weeks. Their records and descriptions set out. Records and descriptions or other available information concerning fugitives herein set out.</p> </div>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p><b>COPIES DESTROYED</b> <b>9-25-1964</b></p> </div> <div>- P -</div> </div>			
DETAILS:			
<p>REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated July 31, 1935; New York Office letter to Bureau dated August 8, 1935; and report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York City, dated February 4, 1935. <b>b7C</b></p>			
DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>White</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">60-1501-64</p>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION		RECORDED AND INDEXED: <b>AUG 12 1935</b>
<p>3 - Bureau (11 Encls.)</p> <p>2 - Trenton (1 Encl.)</p> <p>2 - Washington Field</p> <p>4 - New York (1-John Harlan Amen, Spec. Asst. (2 Encls. Mr. Amen) to Atty. Gen., 20 Exchange Pl., N.Y.C.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AUG 12 AM</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">SEP 5 - 1935</p>
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE			

DETAILS:

Under date of May 8, 1935 the Bureau transmitted to this office a memorandum from Assistant Attorney General Harold M. Stephens, requesting that an interview be had with [REDACTED] Newark, N. J., who, on April 29, 1935, had addressed a complaint to the Department concerning the leaders of Local #2 of the Fur Dressers Union, and Local #3 of the Floor Workers Union. In discussing this case with Mr. Albert J. Law, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, Mr. Law suggested that [REDACTED] be interviewed in his office and that he would arrange to have a request subpoena sent to [REDACTED] for this purpose as soon as the trial of the Fresh Water Fish Case, which was then in progress, was completed.

Agent called at Mr. Dewey's home and, not finding him in, subsequently contacted him by telephone and he stated that it would be agreeable to him to call at Mr. Law's office, Room 530, Old Post Office Building, on August 8, 1935.

Agent then interviewed [REDACTED] and, as requested in the memorandum of Assistant Attorney General Stephens, obtained a statement in affidavit form wherein he alleges that payments to racketeers and gangsters in connection with acts of violence were charged to "Organization Expense" of Local #2, International Fur Dressers Union, and alleges that Morris Stein, who has been active in the Fur Workers Union for the past ten years or more, took an active part in many of the bombings and assaults which had occurred in the fur industry in recent years; that, as an indication of this, the time records of the State Fur Dressing Company, formerly of Brooklyn, N. Y., but now located at Bound Brook, N. J., by whom Stein was then employed, will show that he was absent from work whenever an act of violence occurred; further, that in August, 1934, the officers and some of the employees of the State Fur Dressing Company, then in Brooklyn, were assaulted by a mob led by [REDACTED] of Local #3, International Floor Workers Union, and that in March, 1935, the State Fur Dressing plant at Bound Brook, N. J., was surrounded and threatened by a mob led by Morris Stein; also, that recently, there had been several meetings of the proprietors of the Fur Dressing Company for the purpose of organizing a new association similar to the Fur Dressers Factor Corporation, which meetings are rumored to have been called by Louis Buchalter, alias "Lepke". The signed copy of [REDACTED] affidavit is forwarded herewith to [REDACTED] three copies are being forwarded to the Bureau, one copy is being forwarded to Trenton, and two copies are being retained in the file of this office.

b7c

No leads will be set out at this time based on the information contained in [REDACTED] affidavit pending discussion of this matter with Mr. Law who will return to New York City on August 12, 1935. ] b7C

[REDACTED] described Morris Stein as follows:

Name:	<u>Morris Stein</u>
Age:	About 40.
Height:	Slightly over 5'
Weight:	160 lbs.
Build:	Medium
Hair:	Light brown
Eyes:	Gray-green (?)
Occupation:	Member of Organization Committee of Local #3, International Floor Workers Union. Has also been connected with the "Industrial" or Communist Union. Has also been employed as a floor worker.
Residence:	Brooklyn, N. Y.

An examination of the file of exhibits in this matter in Mr. Law's office disclosed that [REDACTED] had previously been interviewed by former Special Agents [REDACTED] on February 6, 1934, which interview was transcribed in question and answer form. Two copies of this statement are being forwarded to the Bureau herewith, and one copy is being retained in the New York Office file. ] b7C

Question and answer statements were also found covering the interviews by the abovementioned former Special Agents and Mr. Law with the following witnesses on the dates indicated, two copies of each of which statements are forwarded herewith to the Bureau, one copy of each being retained in the file of this office:

b7C [REDACTED]

-	February 3, 1934.
-	January 15, 1934
-	February 6, 1934.

It appears that the Bureau has not previously been furnished with copies of the above statements.

[REDACTED] b7C  
Richmond Fur Dressing Corporation, New York Office, 171 West 29th Street, factory, #1-7 Cross Street, Stapleton, S. I., called at Mr. Law's office and, upon being interviewed by this agent, stated that his company consists of himself and six other partners who are all workers in the company, and three employees consisting of a watchman, a driver and a floor worker, none of whom is a member of the union; that the company was organized in November or December, 1933 and dresses only wolf-skins which it obtains from New York City fur manufacturers, and returns them to the same manufacturers after they are dressed. The manufacturers purchase the wolf-skins from fur dealers in New York City, and the fur dealers purchase them at the market in New York City or from the shippers direct located in various parts of the United States or Canada. [REDACTED] stated that they have recently received threats from the officers of Local #3 of the International Fur Dressers Union; that they, however, are unable to become affiliated with the union because the union would insist on sending many workers to their plant for employment, and that there was hardly enough business to go around among the present partners who own the business and receive smaller profits than the union scale of wages. He submitted a statement in his own handwriting signed by himself and his six partners, reading as follows:

"On August 3, 1935 there came to the premises of Richmond Fur Dressing Corp. of 1-7 Cross St., Stapleton, S. I., a party of three who represented themselves as a committee of the union. This party asked the firm to join the Union and upon refusal threatened the members of the firm. They have been identified as Morris Stein of Local No. 3 of the International Fur Dressers Union, and [REDACTED] b7C also of Local No. 3 of the International Fur Dressers Union. The third member of the committee has not been identified.

These people also threatened [REDACTED] not to go to New York and bring business to the above firm.

(Signed) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] b7C

This statement is being forwarded herewith to [REDACTED]

Reference is made to the letter from this office to the Bureau dated August 6, 1935, a copy of which was forwarded to [REDACTED] and the Washington Field Office, relative to subjects Buchalter and Shapiro, who were reported to have gone to Europe in violation of the terms of their bail bonds in this case, as a result of which the two cases in which they are defendants were placed on the Court Calendar for call as to them on August 12, 1935.

On August 9, 1935, at 12:40 P.M., [REDACTED] representing subjects Buchalter and Shapiro, telephoned Mr. Law's office and, in the latter's absence, requested the reporting agent to inform Mr. Law that he had written to both of his clients instructing them to call at his office, and that subject Shapiro informed him he would be in court on August 12, 1935. Subject Buchalter's [REDACTED] however, telephoned him and said that Buchalter had gone to Europe with [REDACTED] and was not expected to return for six or seven weeks.

On August 9, 1935 a teletype message was transmitted to the Washington Field Office containing the addresses and descriptions of subjects Buchalter and Shapiro for use in efforts to determine whether or not passports had been issued to these subjects. The police records and descriptions of these subjects, as contained in the files of the Bureau of Criminal Identification of the New York City Police Department, follow:

Name:	LOUIS BUCKHOUSE, alias "Lenke".
Age:	37, born in United States.
Height:	5' 7½"
Build:	Medium
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Brown
Complexion:	Dark
Race:	White
Residence:	325 East 68th Street, New York City. (A review of file discloses that on November 22, 1933, upon being interviewed by former Special Agents [REDACTED] this subject stated he lived at [REDACTED] N. Y., and that his [REDACTED] were at that address).
Crime:	722 P.L. (Discon.) Arrested 6-12-33 by [REDACTED] M.O.R.
Occupation:	Dress Business. On file in [REDACTED] Office.



Criminal Record: LOUIS BUCKHOUSE, aliases:  
 LOUIS BUCHALTER, LOUIS KAWER, LOUIS  
COHEN, "LEPKE", N.Y.P.D. #B-46C43-19th Pct.

- 9-12-15 as Louis Buchalter, N.Y.C. Burglary & Assault; on  
 9-20-15 Discharged, Grand Jury, Det. Poane,  
 Broderick & Miller, 7th Branch.
- 1-12-16 as Louis Buchalter, N.Y.C. Burglary; on 1-14-16,  
 Discharged, Mag. Levy, 1st. Court Off. Dowling,  
 Det. Bur.
- 2-29-16 as Louis Kawer, Bridgeport, Conn., Theft; on 5-16-16,  
 Cheshire, Reformatory, Judge Curtis.
- 9-28-17 as Louis Buchalter, N.Y.C. Grand Larceny; on 1-11-18  
 1½ years Sing Sing Prison, Judge Nott, General  
 Sessions; Off. Hayden, 2nd. Branch, Det. Bur.
- 4-23-19 as Louis Buchalter, N.Y.C. Att/ Burglary; on 4-25-19  
 Discharged, Mag. Frothingham, 2nd. Court. Officer  
 Sherry, M.O.D.
- 1-22-20 as Louis Cohen, N.Y.C. Burglary; on 6-21-20, 2½ years  
 Sing Sing Prison, Judge Nott, General Sessions Court,  
 Off. Broderick, Grill & McNameara, 18th. Pct. D.D.
- 2- 2-20 as Louis Buchalter, N.Y.C. Burglary; on 2-26-20 Dis-  
 charged, Grand Jury, Off. Hayden, M.O.D.
- 9-11-25 as Louis Buchalter, N.Y.C., Robbery; on 9-12-25, Dis-  
 charged, Mag. Oberwager, 3rd. Court, Officer Naton,  
 Safe & Loft Squad.
- 10-19-25 as Louis Buckhouse, N.Y.C., Robbery; on 10-23-25,  
 Discharged, Mag. Silberman, 3rd. Court, Officer  
 Mitchell & Harding, 4th. Squad.
- 10-25-27 as Louis Buckhouse, N.Y.C., Homicide (Gun); on 11-4-27  
 Discharged, Mag. McCreery, Homicide Court, Off.  
 Conway, 4th. Squad.
- 7-17-29 as Louis Buckhouse, N.Y.C., Burglary & Mal. Mischief;  
 on 8-1-29, Discharged, Mag. Goodwin, 3rd, Court,  
 Off. Beakey, Radical Squad.
- 11-11-31 as Louis Buckhouse, Dis. Conduct; on 12-24-31 Dis-  
 charged, Mag. Gottlieb, 1st, Court, Off. Kelly,  
 Radical Squad.

60-302.

Criminal record of Louis Buckhouse, with aliases, (Cont'd.)

11-11-31 as Louis Buchalter, Bronx, Extortion; on  
6-15-32, Discharged, Consent of District Attor-  
ney; Off. Finkheim & Frauz, 40th Squad.  
6-12-33 as Louis Buckhouse, Manhattan, 722 P.L., Off.  
Kirwan & Beakey, M.O.D.

Name: JACOB SHAPIRO, alias MORRIS FRIEDMAN

Age: 38 years, born in New York City.  
Height: 5' 5 3/4"  
Weight: 202 lbs.  
Build: Stocky  
Hair: Medium chestnut.  
Eyes: Blue  
Complexion: Medium  
Race: White  
Occupation: Laborer  
Residence: 141 Essex Street, New York City.  
(A review of the file discloses that  
on November 22, 1933, when inter-  
viewed by former Special Agents  
[REDACTED] this subject  
gave his address as 103 East 29th  
Street, New York City, which is the  
address of the Hotel Hatfield).  
Crime: Homicide - Gun, arrested 4-3-33 by  
Det. McGowan, 66th Sq.  
Photograph: On file in New York Bureau Office.

Criminal Record:

JACOB SHAPIRO, alias MORRIS FREIDMAN,  
N.Y.P.D. #B-40317.

2-22-15 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Mal. Mischief; on  
2-22-15 Discharged, Mag. Campbell.  
4- 1-15 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Burglary; on 7-15-15,  
Discharged, Judge Malone, Off. Rose, 1st. Branch.

Criminal Record of Jacob Shapiro, with alias, (Cont'd.)

- 8-21-15 as Morris Friedman, Manhattan, Burglary; on  
10-6-15, Elmira Reformatory, Judge Crain, General  
Sessions Court, Off. Murray, 7th Precinct.
- 12-13-17 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Abduction; on 12-14-17,  
Discharged, Mag. McGeehan, Off. Lipok, 13th Pre-  
cinct.
- 1-25-18 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Grand Larceny; on  
1-30-18 Discharged, Mag. Boyle, Off. McGowan,  
15th Pct.
- 3-26-18 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Grand Larceny; on  
4-4-18, 1 year 2 months, Sing Sing Prison,  
Judge Mulqueen, General Sessions Court, Off.  
Cassasso, & Mugge, Det. Bur.
- 6-26-19 as Samuel Dishuse, Manhattan, Assault; on 7-11-19,  
Penitentiary, Special Sessions Court, Off.  
Schweiger, 49th Pct.
- 6- 4-20 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Bribery; on 6-4-20,  
Discharged, Off. Mason, 13th Precinct.
- 7-21-22 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Robbery (Gun), final  
charge, Gun; on 10-27-22, 1 year Sing Sing Prison,  
Judge Johnstone, Off. McCartney & Repetti, Det.  
Bur.
- 8- 1-23 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Fel. Assault; on 10-3-23  
Discharged, Mag. Frothingham, 3rd Court, Off.  
Mitchell & Josephs, 13th D.D.
- 5-25-25 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Fel. Assault; on 5-29-25  
Discharged, Mag. McCreery, 3rd Court, Off. Murphy,  
6th Squad.
- 10-19-25 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Robbery; on 11-16-25  
Discharged, Mag. Goodman, Off. Mitchell & Harding,  
4th Sq.
- 10-25-27 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Homicide; on 11-4-27  
Discharged, Mag. McCreery, Homicide Court, Off.  
Conroy & Nammach, 4th Squad.

Criminal Record of Jacob Shapiro, with alias (Cont'd.)

- 7-17-29 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Burglary & Mal.  
Mischief. On 7-18-29, Discharged, Mag.  
Goodman, Off. Beakey, Radical Bureau.
- 11-11-31 as Jacob Shapiro, Manhattan, Dis. Conduct 722  
P.L. Sub 11; on 12-24-31; Discharged, Mag.  
Gottlieb, 1st Court, Off. Kelly, Radical Squad.
- 4- 3-33 as Jacob Shapiro, Bklyn., Homicide; on 4-4-33,  
Discharged, Mag. Casey, Homicide Court, Off.  
McGowan & Giddings, 66th Squad.

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The descriptions, police records or other available information concerning the fugitives herein follow: (The descriptions and records were obtained from the New York City Police Department unless otherwise stated).

HARRY HANDLER, alias HERSEY HANDLER  
N.Y.P.D.#E 8646.

- 2-21-30 as Harry Handler, Jersey City, N. J., Disorderly  
Person. No disposition at present.
- 9- 1-32 as Harry Handler, Newark, N. J., Investigation.  
No disposition at present.  
Lt. Rowe, D.B.

A review of the file discloses that in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York, N. Y., dated December 27, 1932, Harry Handler, in his statement to [REDACTED] of the Newark Police Department, gave his address as 88 Waverly Avenue, Newark, N. J., his occupation as a cafe owner, and his age as 35 years.

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[REDACTED]  
N. Y. C. P.D.

- 9- 1-32 as [REDACTED] Newark, N. J., Investigation.  
No disposition at present.  
[REDACTED]

In the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York, N. Y., dated December 27, 1932, it is stated that [REDACTED] informed [REDACTED] that his address was [REDACTED] Newark, and gave his occupation as a huckster, and his age, as [REDACTED]

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It is indicated in the file that both of the above-named subjects were indicted in Newark, N. J., for the bombing of the Waverly Fur Dressing Company and the Strand Fur Dressing Company, the disposition of which cases is not shown.

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With reference to [REDACTED] the file discloses that [REDACTED] of the Alien Squad, New York City Police Department, stated that an [REDACTED] was with the Mt. Vernon Fur Dressing Company; that he had been with the union, and was thrown out for stealing from the union seven or eight years ago. [REDACTED] was absent on sick leave during the period covered by this report and will be interviewed upon his return to duty.

A review of the file further disclosed that [REDACTED] New York City, testified that "... [REDACTED] called on me on other business and admitted that they authorized or requested violence....This man is from Rhine Fur Dressers....".

[REDACTED] upon being interviewed in this respect, stated that he knew of an [REDACTED] Merchants Trimming Association at 7th Avenue & 30th Street, New York City, and that he believes he is now with the Fur Dealers or Fur Manufacturers Association.

The Criminal Identification Bureau of the New York Police Department furnished a photograph and a record of one [REDACTED] who was arrested on September 7, 1932, charged with burglary and dismissed on November 3, 1932. His description follows:

Name:

Age:

Height:

Weight:

Build:

Hair:

Eyes:

Description of [REDACTED] (Cont'd.)

Complexion:  
Race:  
Born:  
Occupation:  
Residence:  
Crime:

[REDACTED]

Photograph:

[REDACTED]

Name:

[REDACTED]

Age:  
Height:  
Weight:  
Build:  
Hair:  
Eyes:  
Race:  
Residence:  
Occupation:  
Crime:

[REDACTED]

Photograph:

Criminal Record:

[REDACTED]

2-16-18 As [REDACTED] N.Y.C., Grand Larc., Final Charge, Petit Larceny. On 3-27-18, Sent. Suspended, Judge Rosalsky, Gen. Sess. Ct. [REDACTED] D.C.

12-27-21 As [REDACTED] N.Y.C. Att. Gr. Larceny. On 7-20-22, 1 year & 3 months to 2 years. Sing Sing. Judge Johnston, Gen. Sess. Ct. [REDACTED] 18 D.D.

8-20-24 As [REDACTED] N.Y.C., Att. Gr. Larceny. On 9-11-24, Dismissed, Grand Jury, [REDACTED] Traff. "A".

b7C

Criminal record of [REDACTED] with alias (Cont'd.)

12-10-24 As [REDACTED] Bklyn., Grand Larceny. On  
1-12-25, Dismissed, Grand Jury, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 47th D.D.

4-29-33 As [REDACTED] Bklyn., Felonious Assault.  
(Iron Pipe). No disposition at present. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 67th Sqd.

Indicted 5-15-33; jumped bail 9-2-33.

With reference to fugitive [REDACTED] a re-  
view of the file discloses that [REDACTED] Expert Fur  
Dressing Corporation, 276 Calyer Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., stated, in  
part, as follows:

67C  
"In November, 1932....3 men came into the  
shop and asked for [REDACTED] to see him about  
a job....One, later known as [REDACTED] and pos-  
sibly another, went upstairs and held up [REDACTED]  
Meanwhile, I ran for a revolver and fired it at a  
machine outside with a fourth man. Then [REDACTED]  
came running down with a revolver and told me to  
lay down, which I did. I did not see his face but  
he was a big man. The police picked him up outside  
of the place nearby with a gun in his possession".

The police record of this fugitive follows:

[REDACTED]  
11-10-32 - [REDACTED] New York City, Assault (Gun).  
On 11-23-32 - dismissed, Magistrate Marvin, 5th  
Court. [REDACTED] 94th Pct.

Further inquiry by agent developed that his address,  
at the time of his arrest, was given as [REDACTED] Brooklyn,  
N. Y., and [REDACTED]

With reference to fugitive Max Stein, a review of the file discloses that Detective [REDACTED] previously furnished information to the effect that Max Stein was arrested at 350 West 47th Street, New York City, February 20, 1933, at 7:30 A.M., by [REDACTED] 73rd Squad, for an assault on [REDACTED]. The case was adjourned to March 14, 1933, 10th Court, Brooklyn, N. Y. On March 14, 1933 Stein jumped bail of \$1,000. The charge was reduced to disorderly conduct--had a gun with an expired permit. On April 4, 1933 the charge was changed to simple assault, 3rd degree, and [REDACTED] withdrew his complaint.

The Criminal Identification Bureau of the New York City Police Department was requested to furnish a copy of their record and photograph, if available, of Max Stein, but the record they furnished concerned another man of the same name. Further efforts will be made to obtain the correct record of fugitive Max Stein.

Name:

Age:

Height:

Build:

Hair:

Eyes:

Occupation:

Residence:

Photograph:

Race:

Arrested:

Criminal Record:

9- 6-24 As [REDACTED] N.Y.C., Dis. Con. (P.P.) and Revolver. On 9-12-24, N.Y.C. Reformatory on Dis. Con. charge, Mag. Weil. On 9-15-24, Sent. Suspended on Revolver charge, in Spec. Sessions Ct. [REDACTED] 6th Sqd.

10-25-26 As [REDACTED] N.Y.C., (Queens), Burglary. (Attempt 2nd). On 12-9-26, Elmira Reformatory, Judge Adel, County Ct. [REDACTED] 64th Pct.



Criminal record of [REDACTED] with aliases (Cont'd.)

12-13-32 As [REDACTED] Newark, N.J., Investigation (Loitering). On 12-16-32, Sent. Suspended, Judge Albano, 2nd Ct. [REDACTED] D.B.

1-26-33 As [REDACTED] N.Y.C., Burglary (Final charge Att. Gr. Larceny, 2nd.) On 3-30-33, 3 years Sing-Sing Prison. Judge Fraschi, Gen. Sess. [REDACTED] 7th Pct. Note: 2-18-35 Paroled. Parole expires 1-27-36.

With further reference to subject [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated that he believes this man is now working for the Fur Dressing firm of Schuster & Gaio, somewhere on Long Island.

Mr. Law, prior to his departure for Washington, D. C., on August 6, 1935, informed agent that Indictment #C95-925, against the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, et al, would be placed on the calendar for call on September 16, 1935.

It is noted that all of the subjects in this case have been arraigned and released on bail.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

TRENTON, N. J. OFFICE will obtain from the Newark Police Department the records and photographs of fugitives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will take appropriate steps to locate and cause the apprehension of these two fugitives. If it appears that they are presently in New Jersey, the New York Office should be promptly advised so that arrangements may be made to have the certified copies of indictments and bench warrants forwarded immediately.

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE will continue efforts to ascertain through the State Department whether or not passports have been issued to subjects Buchalter and Shapiro and, if so, will forward photostatic copies of the applications therefor.

NEW YORK OFFICE will confer with Mr. Law relative to further investigation required in this matter and will take appropriate steps to locate the fugitives herein, as indicated in the details of this report.

PENDING.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501-140X**

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

July 25, 1936

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: LOUIS BUCKHALTER, with aliases:  
Lepke, Lopke, Lepky, Sefky, Lipke,  
Lefky, Louis Kuvar, Louis Kuver,  
Louis Buckhouse, Louis Buckholtz,  
Louis Cohen, Louis Buckholter.

The Bureau files reflect the following information pertain-  
ing to Louis Buckhalter, with aliases. He first came to the attention  
of the Bureau when a complaint was made by [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] who stated he had formerly been a truck  
operator hauling knee pants from manufacturers in New York City to  
contractors in New Jersey; that some time prior to 1932 he was approached

[REDACTED] and had had to pay him a thousand dollars for the  
privilege of remaining in business; that in 1932 the officers of the  
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, which organization he states  
dominates the Knee Pants Manufacturers Association, forced him entirely  
out of business; that this union was supposedly for both contractors and  
manufacturers of the Garment Industry, but that it amounted to a strong-  
arm racket which assessed the contractors and manufacturers a fee on  
each employee in their service; and that upon the failure of anyone to  
pay their demands they were immediately unable to obtain work from the  
manufacturers in New York. [REDACTED] further stated that Lipke, which  
is an alias of subject, was an official of this organization. However,  
he had no information to verify this statement.

In connection with the investigation of the Bureau case  
entitled Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, et al. Antitrust,  
Special Agent [REDACTED] ascertained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that Louis Buckhalter was in the "canvas business" somewhere in  
Greater New York, he explaining that what is meant by "canvas business"

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

60-1501-140X

Sect. 3

Memorandum for the Director.

- 2 -

July 25, 1936

is that canvas was used in men's suits and overcoats, which is a part of the industry. No investigation was made to verify this statement.

b7c  
1

A complaint was also made by [redacted] who are manufacturers of paper boxes in New York City, that Joseph Parisi and his gang, of which he listed Louis Lepke as a member, were interfering with interstate commerce by violence; that the paper box industry consisting of 215 shops in New York City, Long Island and Brooklyn, and possibly 40 shops in the State of New Jersey, carried on interstate commerce between the State of New Jersey and New York, and that a small amount of business was done by the New York concerns with individuals in Connecticut; that there had been numerous instances in which violence was used to force drivers of the industry, as well as inside employees, to join the Truck Drivers' Union, thereby exacting lucrative revenue from the workers in the form of dues and initiation fees. However, a statement was later taken from a number of employees of the National Eagle Paper Box Company, Inc., located at 1226 Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, in which they stated that Parisi was the main racketeer in the paper box industry and that he was merely using Buckhalter's (alias Louis Lepke) name because he knew he was an ex-convict and a racketeer of Greater New York, and that by associating himself with Lepke, Parisi could thereby demand more respect from the manufacturers and from their employees.

Benjamin Heffnan, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Labor, Attorney General's Office of the State of New York, at 8 Center Street, New York City, stated in an interview with Special Agent [redacted] at New York City on August 13, 1934, that he had been unable to obtain any evidence which might indicate that Louis Lepke was connected with the paper box industry. This case relating to the racketeering activities of gangsters in the paper box industry is still being investigated by the Bureau and is being carried in the files as JOSEPH PARISI, [redacted] ANTHONY LEGGIO, [redacted] LOUIS LEPKE and [redacted] - ANTITRUST (File 60-1758).

1759

On January 31, 1935, Special Agent in Charge J. E. P. Dunn, of Los Angeles, California, directed a letter to the New York Bureau Office, which was in reference to a communication from the New York Office, advising them of their files with respect to well-known

July 25, 1936

gangsters and criminals in their locality. The Los Angeles letter advised that through information obtained from the Los Angeles Police Department, Louis Buckhalter, in company with Benjamin Siegel, had been seen in California and that they had stated their reasons for leaving New York were to attempt to entrench Buckhalter politically in California; that Buckhalter exhibited a great deal of interest in the reopening of dog tracks in California, together with a possible connection on his part with the slot-machine business. However, no investigation was conducted to verify this information.

The files further reflect that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised Special Agent

b7C [REDACTED] during an interview [REDACTED] on January 3, 1935, that [REDACTED] had informed her that Vernon Miller had been killed as a result of orders from New York City; that the syndicate to which Vernon Miller had belonged, as well as the entire Barker-Karpis gang, was operated in New York, Chicago, Illinois, Kansas City and St. Paul, and that the chief connections in New York were Louis Buckhalter and "Benny the Bug" Siegel. She stated she was of the opinion that Louis Buckhalter had been instrumental in causing Vernon Miller's death, but investigation never substantiated this assumption.

b7C It is to be noted that during the time Alvin Karpis, with aliases, et al, were being sought for the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer, Louis Buckhalter's home at 25 Central Park West, New York City, was kept under continuous surveillance by New York Police, for they believed that Harry Campbell might attempt to contact him since information had been obtained from [REDACTED] as previously stated, that Louis Buckhalter was the gang's main contact in New York City. The file reflects that their efforts were futile.

Louis Buckhalter is now being carried as a subject in an antitrust matter entitled The Dress Industry, [REDACTED] having originally made the complaint regarding activities of gangsters in this industry. Special Agent [REDACTED] was advised in an interview with [REDACTED]

b7C [REDACTED] Dress Code Authority controlled the manufacture of women's dresses; and that the bulk of the industry was carried on by a system of jobbers

Memorandum for the Director.

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July 25, 1936

b7c  
and contractors' relationship, in that the jobbers would buy the material and design the dresses while the contractors would do the sewing, operating and finishing of the dresses; that prior to the Code the jobbers could bid one contractor against the other until the price of contractor service reached a starvation figure; that the Code set up machinery whereby the jobber was responsible to the worker and contractors for a decent wage, and in the event he didn't pay it the victim could present his case to an impartial chairman who would hear the facts and designate the reimbursing of the complainant, if such was warranted. The large jobbers, particularly those in the low price wholesale field, rebelled against this restraint and employed racketeers for protection. Lepky and Charles Gurrah, with five others, were named [redacted] as being the outstanding racketeers employed by those firms who sought to evade the articles of the Code. [redacted] stated further that he had heard that contractors who had filed claims before the impartial chairman against certain wholesale firms in the Dress Industry, had been visited at night by gangsters and threatened with death. The individuals who were threatened and the gangsters who made the threats were unknown [redacted] since this was a rumor that he was unable to verify.

The New York Office has conducted an extensive investigation on the Dress Industry and advised the Bureau by letter on July 3, 1936 that the Dress Industry investigation would be completed in approximately six or eight weeks. This investigation, however, has failed to develop any information definitely connecting Buckhalter with the alleged racketeering activities in this industry.

A news article in the New York American appeared on April 30, 1936, which was entitled "The Garment Racket Drive Opens", and stated in substance that racketeers moved into the office of Arthur Saffer, Inc., 1239 Broadway, which is a men's clothing concern, and compelled him to be banker and pay off men for them. The article quoted Murray I. Gurfern, who is Special Prosecutor Dewey's assistant as follows: "Starting his contacts through personal friends, Saffer was drawn in by Louis Buckhalter alias Lepke and Charles alias Jacob Shapiro, until he could not extricate himself from his criminal associates. Lepke and Shapiro, known as Gurrah, simply made their headquarters at Saffer's offices installing their henchmen who terrorized business men of the garment district".

Memorandum for the Director.

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July 25, 1936

The files regarding the investigation of the case entitled "THE FUR DRESSING INVESTIGATION, ANTITRUST" reflect that the investigation was predicated upon a complaint received from the VAN-DYE-WAY CORPORATION, located at 465 Straight Street, Paterson, New Jersey, on December 8, 1931, against the KAMACHATKA FUR DYEING CORPORATION; THE ICELAND FUR DYEING CO.; THE PHILIP SINGER & BRO.; THE GREAT NORTHERN FUR DYEING & DRESSING CO.; and THE MENDOZA FUR DYEING WORKS, INC., all of New York City. The complainant and the five corporations complained of are competitors in the business of dyeing rabbit skins; that their customers are jobbers who deal in rabbit skins, buying them in a raw state, sending them to the dyers for dyeing, and then selling them in a dressed condition to clothing manufacturers. The complaint made was that these five corporations notified the jobbers in attendance that unless all of their dyeing work was given to one of the said five corporations no credit would be extended to them and that if they gave any work whatever to the complainant, not only would no credit be extended to them, but none of their work would be accepted. Through the investigation of this complaint is information obtained that a great number of the concerns in this industry were doing the same thing and also hiring gangsters to establish their strong-arm tactics.

As a result of these investigations a United States Grand Jury in the Southern District of New York returned two indictments on November 6, 1933, against a large number of business firms and individuals, together with two labor unions of this industry, charging them with a violation of the antitrust laws, in that by their agreements and tactics they were acting in restraint of interstate commerce. Bench warrants were issued for all defendants on November 9, 1933.

Louis Buckhalter was made a defendant in both indictments and on November 22, 1933, he appeared before United States District Judge Robert A. Inch, and was arraigned, Buckhalter pleading not guilty on both indictments, his bail being set for \$2500.00 and \$5,000.00, respectively. On June 11, 1934, Buckhalter was called before Judge William Bondy and was requested to give a new bail, there being a question as to the old one, and at this time his bail was reduced in the FUR DRESSERS FACTOR CORPORATION, et al case to \$3,000.00. Included in the terms of the bail bonds was a prohibition against leaving the jurisdiction without the permission of the court. The Bureau was informed by letter on August 5, 1935 that there had appeared articles

Memorandum for the Director.

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July 25, 1936

in the newspapers on August 1st and 2nd, 1935, by the New York Bureau Office, that Buckhalter had sailed for Europe. The two above stated cases were called for trial on August 12, 1935, and at that time J. Arthur Adler, attorney for Buckhalter, advised the court that his client was presently in Carlsbad, Czechoslovakia, for his health. Federal Judge Hayes, Southern District of New York forfeited the bond of Buckhalter, subject to being reinstated if he surrendered himself to the United States Marshal, New York City, by September 3, 1935, the case being continued until that date.

On September 3, 1935, Buckhalter and his family arrived in New York City aboard the S.S. Berengaria from Havre, France. It is presumed he was reinstated by the court on this date since the files made no mention of the matter.

In a memorandum from Assistant Attorney General Dickinson, dated December 10, 1935, he stated that these two indictments above referred to are probably the only two pending against this man; that Commissioner of Police Valentine of New York classed Buckhalter as among the nine most notorious and dangerous criminals in the country; and that the proof available against him is comparatively slight, this being due primarily to the fact witnesses who presumably could give the desired testimony are afraid to do so. This case is still pending, having been continued from time to time by the United States Attorney's office.

It is to be noted that Jacob Shapiro alias Gurrah's name has been associated with that of Buckhalter all through the investigations that the Bureau has conducted in the Garment Industry. He too, was indicted in the same cases as Buckhalter, but investigations thus far have failed to supply any tangible evidence which would assure a prosecution in behalf of the Government.

A copy of Louis Buckhalter's complete criminal record is attached hereto.

Respectfully,

  
E. A. Tamm.

Enclosure.



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.233811  
July 22, 1936.

The following is a transcript of the record, including the most recently reported data, as shown in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning our number FBI-222228.

J. E. Hoover

J. E. Hoover, Director.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
* SRef., Cheshire, Conn.	2-29-16, Louis Kauvar, Bridgeport, Conn., theft, Ref. 6 Louis Kauvar, aliases: Louis Buchalter, Louis Kauvar, #517	5-18-16	theft	5-16-16; Cheshire inde.; 12-9-31, rel. exp. full term
PD, New York, N.Y.	Louis Buckhouse, aliases: "Lefky", "Sefky", #B-46043	7-17-29	burglary & mal. mischief	8-21-29, disch.
PD, New York, N.Y.	Louis Buckhouse, alias "Lepky", #B-46043	11-11-31	dis. con., vio. 722 P.L.	*disch.
* PD, New York, N.Y.	This subject is wanted on an extortion charge, by Attorney's Office, Bronx, (per record sheet recd. 11-13-31). Louis Buchhalter, alias "Lopke", #B-46043	11-11-31	inf. appearing on PD, New York, N.Y. Notified 6-16-33. extortion	
PD, New York, N.Y.	Louis Buckhouse, alias "Lopke", #B-46043	6-12-33	viol. Sec. 722 P.L.	6-13-33, disch.
USM, New York, N.Y.	Louis Buchhalter, alias Louis Buchalter, #70172	11-21-33	Anti Trust Laws	
Bu.Off., New York, N.Y.	Louis Buckhouse, aliases: "Lepke", Louis Buckwalt	inquiry 11-30-34		
* * *	9-2-15, Louis Buchalter, New York City, burg. & asslt.; 9-20-15, disch. 1-12-16, Louis Buchalter, New York City, burg.; 1-14-16, disch. 9-28-17, Louis Buchalter, New York City, G.L.; 1-11-18, 1 1/2 yrs. Sing Sing			

CONTRIBUTOR OF  
FINGERPRINTS

NAME AND NUMBER

ARRESTED OR  
RECEIVED

DISPOSITION

033812

\* 4-23-19, Louis Buchholtz, New York City, att. burglary; on  
4-25-19, disch.

\* 1-22-20, Louis Cohen, New York City, burglary; on 2-21-20,  
23 yrs. Sing Sing.

\* 2-2-20, Louis Buchholtz, New York City, burglary; on 2-16-20,  
disch.

\* 9-11-25, as Louis Buchholter, New York City, robbery; on  
9-12-25, disch.

\* 10-19-25, as Louis Buchholtz, New York City, robbery; on  
10-23-25, disch.

\* 10-25-27, as Louis Buchhouse, New York City, homicide (gun);  
on 11-4-27, disch.

This individual is included in the blacklist issued by the  
Bureau of Narcotics, Treasury Dept., Wash., D.C.

OUTSTANDING CRIMINALS. (NEW YORK CITY)

B-16013 LOUIS BUCHALTER, aliases - Louis Cohen, Louis "affer,  
"Lepke".

MOBIS OPERANDI: One of the four most important gangsters in  
New York City. Is the number one man on all  
union rackets involving strong arm work. Is  
wealthy. Has connections with all the  
important mobs in the U.S. Now under indict-  
ment in U.S. District Court, New York City,  
in connection with racketeering in fur industry.  
Is without doubt the most influential gangster  
and racketeer in New York City.

(Inf. rec. Bu. off., New York City, N.Y., 1-10-31, Bu. file 62-29950-41).

This case is listed in the Single Fingerprint files of the Bureau  
under #K-4131.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501-237**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**

607 U. S. Court House  
Foley Square  
New York, N. Y.

November 7, 1937

60-302

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: FUR DRESSING INVESTIGATION.  
JACOB SHAPIRO with aliases -  
FUGITIVE. LOUIS BUCHALTER  
with aliases - FUGITIVE, et al.  
ANTITRUST.  
(Bureau file #60-1501)

Dear Sir:

It is requested that an identification order be issued for  
LOUIS BUCHALTER with aliases. Data on this individual for placement  
thereon are as follows:

NAME AND ALL ALIASES: Louis Buchalter; aliases: Louis Kauvar, Louis Kawer,  
Louis Kauver, Louis Lauvar, Louis Buckhouse,  
Louis Buckhalter, Louis Buckholtz, Louis Cohen,  
Louis Saffer, "Lepke", "Lepky", "Lefky", "Sefky".

Fingerprint Classification: 15 0 25 W II 16  
M 27 W 0

Offense (for which wanted): Violation Antitrust Laws.

**Description:**

Age, date and place of birth: 40, born Feb. 12, 1897 at New York City.  
Height: 5'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "  
Weight: 160 lbs. RECORDED  
Color of Eyes: Brown.  
Color of Hair: Dark brown.  
Complexion: Dark.  
Build: Medium.  
Race: White.  
Nationality: American - Jewish.  
Education: Grammar School.  
Occupation: Racketeer.  
Scars & Marks: Appendicitis operation scar.

Peculiarities: Nose large, rather straight and blunt. Ears  
prominent.

Eyes alert, shifting.

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906 FEB 6 1969

Photograph taken June 12, 1933 by New York City Police Department, on file  
in Bureau.

RELATIVES: Father - Barnett Buchalter (deceased).  
Mother - Mrs. Rose Buchalter, care of Mrs. Sarah Moss, 2130 Broadway, New York, N. Y.  
Brother: Emanuel Buchalter, DDS, 110 W. 86th Street, Apt. 12A, New York, N. Y. Offices: 57 W. 57th St., New York City; 327 Roebling St., Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Sister: Mrs. Sarah Moss, 2130 Broadway, New York City (Beacon Hotel). Summer address Camp Allegro, Pittsfield, Mass.  
Half-sister: Mrs. M. J. Morse, Apt. 8B, 161 West 75th Street, New York City.  
Half-brother: Dr. C. H. Kauvar, residence 1316 Gilpin Street, Denver, Colorado. Office address 1580 Gaylord Street, Denver, Colorado.  
Brother: Isadore Buchalter, druggist. ) Present addresses not  
Half-brother: Phillip Kauvar. ) available, will probably  
be obtained in near future.  
Wife: Betty Buchalter, present whereabouts not known. Former address 26 Central Park West, New York, N. Y.  
Stepson: Harold Buchalter, present whereabouts not known. Former address 26 Central Park West, New York, N. Y.

* <del>Name under which arrested:</del> Louis Buckalter. <del>Arresting Agency:</del> Police Dept., New York City, N. Y. <del>Charge:</del> Burglary and Felonious Assault.	<del>Number:</del> B 46043. <del>Date:</del> September 2, 1915.  <del>Disposition:</del> discharged 9/20/15.
* <del>Name under which arrested:</del> Louis Buckalter. <del>Arresting Agency:</del> PD, NYC <del>Charge:</del> Burglary.	<del>Number:</del> B 46043. <del>Date:</del> 1/12/16. <del>Disposition:</del> Discharged 1/14/16.
* <del>Name under which arrested:</del> Louis Kauvar. <del>Arresting Agency:</del> PD, Bridgeport, Conn. <del>Charge:</del> Theft.	<del>Number:</del> - - - <del>Date:</del> 2/29/16. <del>Disposition:</del> 5/16/16 indeterminate sentence Reformatory, Cheshire, Conn.
<del>Name Under which received:</del> Louis Kauvar. <del>Receiving Agency:</del> State Reformatory, Cheshire, Conn.  <del>Crime:</del> Theft.	<del>Number:</del> 517. <del>Date:</del> May 10, 1916. <del>Sentence:</del> Indeterminate. <del>Release, manner and date of:</del> Released on parole 7/12/17; absconded 7/23/17; warrant issued for violation of parole, never executed. Dismissed by Parole Board 12/9/31.

\* Name under which arrested: Louis Buckalter. Number: B 46043.  
Arresting Agency: PD, NYC, NY. Date: September 28, 1917.  
Charge: Grand Larceny, Second. Disposition: 1/11/18, 1½ yrs.  
Sing Sing Prison.

Name under which received: Louis Buckalter. Number:  
Receiving Agency: Sing Sing Prison, Date: January 11, 1918.  
Ossining, N. Y. Sentence: 1½ years.  
Crime: Grand Larceny, Second. Release, manner and date of:  
Transferred 2/19/18.

Name under which received: Louis Buckalter. Number: A 36326.  
Receiving Agency: Auburn Prison. Date: February 19, 1918, on trans  
Crime: Grand Larceny, Second. Sentence:  
Release, manner and date of:  
Transferred May 21, 1918.

Name under which received: Louis Buchalter. Number: 4474.  
Receiving Agency: Great Meadow Prison, Date: May 21, 1918, on transfer.  
Comstock, N. Y. Sentence:  
Release, manner and date of:  
Discharged January 27, 1919.

\* Name under which arrested: Louis Buckholtz. Number: B 46043.  
Arresting Agency: PD, NYC, NY. Date: April 23, 1919.  
Charge: Attempted Burglary. Disposition: 4/25/19 discharged.

\* Name under which arrested: Louis Cohen. Number: B 46043.  
Arresting Agency: PD, NYC, NY. Date: January 22, 1920.  
Charge: Attempted Burglary, 3rd. Disposition: 6/21/20, 2½ yrs.  
Sing Sing Prison.

> Name under which received: Louis Cohen. Number:-  
Receiving Agency: Sing Sing Prison. Date: June 21, 1920.  
Crime: Attempted Burglary, 3rd. Sentence: 2½ years.  
Release, manner and date of:  
Released on parole 3/16/22.  
Discharged upon expiration of  
this sentence 12/19/22.

\* Name under which arrested: Louis Buckholtz. Number: B 46043.  
Arresting Agency: PD, NYC, NY. Date: February 2, 1920.  
Charge: Burglary. Disposition: 2/26/20 discharged.

\* Name under which arrested: Louis Buckhalter. Number: B 46043.  
Arresting Agency: PD, NYC, NY. Date: September 11, 1925.  
Charge: Robbery. Disposition: 9/12/25 discharged.

\* Name under which arrested: Louis Buckholtz (Louis Buckhouse)  
Arresting Agency: NYC PD.  
Charge: Robbery.  
Number: B 46043.  
Date: October 19, 1925.  
Disposition: 10/23/25 discharged.

\* Name under which arrested: Louis Buckhouse.  
Arresting Agency: NYC PD.  
Charge: Homicide (gun).  
Number: B 46043.  
Date: October 25, 1927.  
Disposition: 11/4/27 discharged.

Name under which arrested: Louis Buckhouse  
alias "Leiky", alias "Sefky".  
Arresting Agency: NYC PD.  
Charge: Burglary and Malicious Mischief.  
Number: B 46043.  
Date: July 17, 1929.  
Disposition: 8/21/29 discharged.

Name under which arrested: Louis Buckhouse  
alias "Lepky".  
Arresting Agency: NYC PD.  
Charge: Viol. Sec. 722 P.L.  
Number: B 46043.  
Date: November 11, 1931.  
Disposition: 12/24/31 discharged.

\* Name under which arrested: Louis Buckhalter.  
Arresting Agency: NYC PD (BRONX)  
Charge: Extortion.  
Number: B 46043.  
Date: November 11, 1931.  
Disposition: 6/15/32 dismissed.

Name under which arrested: Louis Buckhouse  
alias "Lepke".  
Arresting Agency: NYC PD.  
Charge: Viol. Sec. 722, P.L.  
Number: B 46043.  
Date: June 12, 1933.  
Disposition: 6/13/33 discharged.

Name under which arrested: Louis Buchalter.  
Arresting Agency: U. S. Marshal, SDNY.  
Charge: Viol. Antitrust Laws. Two indictments, i.e., U.S. vs. Protective Fur Dressers Factor Corp. et al, SDNY, 11/6/33.  
Number: 70172.  
Date: November 21, 1933.  
Disposition: 11/21/33 released on bail pending trial.  
11/9/36 U.S. vs. Protective Fur Dressers Corp. et al; convicted SDNY violation Sherman Antitrust Act on 4 counts. 11/12/36 sentenced 1 yr. on each count. Counts 3 and to run concurrent with each other, and with count 2, and fined \$5,000 on count 1 and \$5,000 on count 2.

Name under which received: Louis Buchalter.  
Receiving Agency: U.S. Detention Headquarters, NYC, NY.  
Crime: Sherman Antitrust Act, case of U.S. vs. Protective Fur Dressers Corp., et al.  
Number:  
Date: November 12, 1936.  
Sentence: 2 yrs. and \$10,000.  
Release, manner and date of: 12/3/36 released on bail pending appeal. 3/8/37 conviction reversed by Circuit Court of Appeals, Second Circuit.

b7c  
60-302

July 6, 1937: Subject Buchalter failed to appear when case of U.S. vs. Fur Dressers Factor Corp., et al called for trial. Bail in amount \$3,000 ordered forfeited and bench warrant issued July 7, 1937. Returned "Not Found" by U. S. Marshal, July 9, 1937.

Also WANTED as Louis Buchalter with aliases: Louis Buckhalter, Louis Buckalter, for conspiracy and extortion, PD, New York City, N. Y.

Indictment was returned by the Federal Grand Jury, SDNY, at New York City, on November 6, 1933, charging Louis Buchalter alias Louis Buckhouse alias Louis Cohen alias Louis Kawer alias "Lepke", and others with a violation of the Sherman Antitrust Law, in that he with others conspired to restrain interstate commerce; to monopolize interstate commerce; attempted to monopolize interstate commerce, and had monopolized interstate commerce.

Very truly yours,

R. E. Vetterli  
R. E. VETTERLI, *mm*  
Special Agent in Charge.

SPECIAL DELIVERY



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501-340**

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY

NY FILE NO. 60-302

EJC

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 11/23/37	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/12-20/37	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7C
TITLE <b>CHANGED:</b> OF DRESSING INVESTIGATION; JACOB SHAPIRO, with aliases "Gurrah," Charles Shapiro, Morris Friedman, Samuel Dishouse, Samuel Dishouse. - FUGITIVE, I.O. #1462.			CHARACTER OF CASE  ANTITRUST
LOUIS BUCHALTER, with aliases "Lepke," Louis <del>BUCKHOLTS</del> Buckhouse, Louis Buckhalter, Louis Kawer, Louis Cohen, Louis Buckalter, Louis Kauvar, Louis Buckholtz, Louis Lauvar, Louis Saffer, Louis Kauver, "Lepky," "Lefky," "Sefky," - FUGITIVE, et al.			
Synopsis:-  Information from file in instant case and in the case entitled Vernon C. Miller, with aliases, et al, Obstruction of Justice; (Endeavor to deliver Federal Prisoner, Frank Nash) New York File 62-4949, and also from informants, reflects names of certain relatives and associates of Buchalter and Shapiro. Investigation in New York City established present location of certain relatives of subjects. Undeveloped leads hereinafter set forth.			
- P -			
REFERENCE:		Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York City, dated October 18, 1937. Letters to the Bureau from New York dated November 7th and November 15th, 1937. Telegram from Seattle to New York dated November 11, 1937. Teletype to Denver from New York dated November 16, 1937.	
COPIES DESTROYED 908 FEB 8 1968			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>R. E. [Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ③ Bureau 2 Buffalo 2 Denver 2 Oklahoma City 2 Newark 3 New York		60-1501-1341 NOV 26 1937 [Stamps and signatures]	

DETAILS:

The title of this case is changed to the extent of setting out the names and aliases of subjects JACOB SHAPIRO and LOUIS BUCHALTER for ready reference in the investigation of this case inasmuch as they are the two fugitives sought by the Bureau. The remaining subjects in this case are not being included in the title at this time because of their great number, and also because they do not play an essential part in the future investigation looking to the apprehension of the fugitives.

This is a joint report of Special Agent [REDACTED] and the writer.

In accordance with verbal instructions from Mr. C. Tolson of the Bureau to Special Agent [REDACTED] on November 10, 1937, to assign two additional agents from this office to this case for the principal purpose of locating and apprehending Jacob Shapiro, with aliases, and Louis Buchalter, the writer and Special Agent [REDACTED] were assigned to this investigation.

Inasmuch as the investigation of agents was to be confined exclusively to the location and apprehension of Shapiro and Buchalter, information was drawn from the files in this case and from files in the case entitled Vernon C. Miller, with aliases, et al; Obstruction of Justice (Endeavor to Deliver Federal Prisoner Frank Nash) New York File 62-4949, reflecting the associates and relatives of Buchalter and Shapiro as known up until this time.

The Vernon C. Miller file was consulted for the reason that the telephone of Buchalter located in the apartment occupied by Buchalter and his wife at the Hotel Pierre, New York City, in 1933 was surveilled by agents of the New York office during which time some information was secured as to Buchalter's associates and relatives and also some information pertaining to his wife and son. The following names of associates and relatives were obtained from the files in both cases and are hereinafter set forth with descriptive data following each name:

ADLER, J. ARTHUR. Commonly known as JAKE ADLER, former Assistant U. S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York, and now a practicing attorney in New York City with offices at 151 West 50th Street, New York City (Lo 8-3980). For some period of time Adler's practice has been known to consist of representing known criminals and racketeers in and about New York City and he has represented subjects Shapiro and Buchalter in the instant case. Adler's brother is reported to have a part interest in the Paradise cabaret located on Broadway in the Times Square district, New York City, and Adler is reported to spend a great deal of time at that place.

ARBEITER, ABE. Last known address 1104 Elder Avenue, Bronx, New York, listed as the name of the father of Betty Buchalter, wife of subject Buchalter, in a bank account at the Drydock Savings Bank in New York City, held by Betty Buchalter in New York City in 1933.

ARBEITER, SAM and SARAH. Last known address listed as 115 Central Park West. Indicate Betty Buchalter as their daughter in bank account held by them in the Harlem Savings Bank in New York City, in 1933. It has not yet been determined the relationship between Abe and Sam Arbeiter but investigation will be conducted to that end.

[REDACTED] Associated with the World Moving and Storage Company, 402 East 3rd Street, New York City, and last known address listed as [REDACTED] New York City. It is indicated that he frequents the vicinity of 2530 Broadway and the Monterey Hotel in New York City. It was indicated that he acted as [REDACTED] Buchalter for some time and whenever Buchalter [REDACTED] changed their residence, which was quite frequently, [REDACTED] for them or made the necessary arrangements relative to it. It was reported that the World Moving and Storage Company is owned by one Milton Spitzer. Both of them are believed to be close associates of Buchalter.

[REDACTED] New York City. (May be reached through his [REDACTED]) One of the officers in the Fur Dressers Factory Corporation, subject

of investigation in instant case. He has given information to the effect that Buchalter and Shapiro were [REDACTED] for strong arm activities by Buchalter and Shapiro. These payments, which were made in cash, were made to Buchalter and Shapiro [REDACTED] Although [REDACTED] has indicated recently that he would be willing to co-operate with the Bureau it is not known if his attitude is sincere in this respect inasmuch as he has been associated with the subjects in criminal activity, according to his own admission. It is quite possible he will be able to give information relative to the location of Buchalter and Shapiro at some future time.

BUCHALTER, BETTY, wife of subject Louis Buchalter. Has a [REDACTED] by former marriage. Her former husband was a World War veteran and has been dead for nine years. Betty Buchalter is described as about 30 years of age; 5' 6" in height; 145 pounds; dark brown hair and heavy build. She has used various aliases, among them, the name Mrs. Betty Saffer, Mrs. Wilson, and Betty Wasserman. It has been determined that the present address of Betty Buchalter is 310 West 86th Street, Apt. 12B, New York City.

She indicated during her telephone conversations, which were surveilled as indicated above in 1933, that Louis Fein, 1268 Stratford Avenue, Bronx, N. Y. (Tivoli 2-5945) was her father although other investigation indicates that her father's name is Arbeiter. She communicated with an attorney in 1933 at telephone Cortlandt 7-0027 and conferred with this attorney over the telephone about [REDACTED] It was apparent that [REDACTED] as the accounting to the Veterans Bureau was mentioned several times. The attorney, whose name could not be clearly distinguished through the telephone surveillance, informed Betty that the Veterans Bureau had written her several letters which were not delivered at that time. Betty informed the attorney that [REDACTED] was then residing with relatives at [REDACTED] Brooklyn, New York.

[REDACTED] Dr.  
Emanuel Buchalter, dentist, brother of Louis Buchalter, who formerly lived at 426 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, New York, but who is presently

residing at [REDACTED] and is in the seventh term at De Witt Clinton High School, Bronx, New York. b7c

BUCHALTER, EMANUEL, D.D.S., residing at 110 West 86th Street, New York City (Tr 7-2082) and maintaining offices at 57 West 57th Street (Wi 2-3320), and 324 Roebling Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. (St 2-8511). Emanuel Buchalter is a brother of Louis Buchalter and while reported to be a reputable business man it is not believed that he will knowingly furnish any information leading to the location of his brother.

[REDACTED] but who now assumes the name of Buchalter. He resides with [REDACTED] 310 West 86th Street, and is now in sixth term at De Witt Clinton High School, Bronx, New York. b7c

BUCHALTER, ISIDORE, residing at 947 Montgomery Street with his wife under the name of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Buchalter (Slocum 6-9778). He is employed as a pharmacist in the Harvard Drug Company, 4239 Broadway, New York City, telephone Washington Heights 7-3957. The proprietor of this drugstore is a man named LANDAU.

BUCHALTER, RHEA. Wife of Emanuel Buchalter, sister-in-law of subject, residing with her husband at 110 West 86th Street, New York City.

BUCHALTER, ROSE, Mrs. Wife of Barnett Buchalter, deceased, mother of Louis Buchalter; also mother of Emanuel, Isidore, Mrs. Sarah Moss, Mrs. M. J. Morse, Phillip Kauvar and C. H. Kauvar. Presently residing at 2130 Broadway, New York City, Beacon Hotel (Tr 7-2500).

DAVIS, DIXIE, attorney, New York City, now being sought by Prosecutor Dewey, in connection with policy rackets. Davis represented Buchalter in certain activities and accompanied him to the office of New York County Assistant District Attorney Mendelsohn for questioning in 1933. His correct name is J. Richard Davis.

FEIN, LOUIS, 1268 Stratford Avenue,  
(Ti 2-5945). Addressed in certain telephone conversation as  
"Father" by Betty Buchalter although exact relationship not yet  
established.

[REDACTED] Oklahoma.  
Recipients of telegram including a Jewish New Years greeting  
sent by Betty Buchalter on September 20, 1933. Exact relation-  
ship to be determined.

[REDACTED] Elizabeth Street station,  
contacted Buchalter some time ago for [REDACTED]  
New York City, to persuade Buchalter to desist from injuring  
[REDACTED] in his business.

[REDACTED] Also known as [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Brooklyn, N. Y. [REDACTED]  
is a friend of Betty Buchalter. She made a trip with Betty to  
Montreal in August 1933. She also has a son who is reported to  
have attended school, possibly at Bedford Academy, with Betty's  
[REDACTED]

KAUVAR, C. H. Jewish Rabbi, 1316 Gilpin Street,  
Denver, Colorado, offices, 1580 Gaylord Street, Denver, Half-  
brother of Buchalter, being the son of Buchalter's mother by  
marriage prior to her marriage to Buchalter's father Barnet, now  
deceased.

PHILLIP KAUVAR, half-brother of Buchalter,  
located in New York City and alleged to be in the trucking busi-  
ness, although his address has not yet been determined.

[REDACTED] Brooklyn,  
[REDACTED] Although not known to have any direct con-  
tact with Buchalter and Shapiro, is known to have close associates  
who are associates of Buchalter and Shapiro.

[redacted] Buchalter;  
last known address is listed as [redacted]  
[redacted] correct name is believed to be [redacted] and  
is said to have married one [redacted]  
[redacted] New York City, who formerly was [redacted]  
[redacted] 6 West 57th Street, New York City.

LERNER, P. MORSE, Dr. Female doctor  
at 242 East 15th Street, (Al 4-4645) treated some of hirelings  
of Buchalter and Shapiro for certain injuries received by them  
while engaging in their strong arm activities in connection with  
instant case.

[redacted] owner of a concession some  
time ago at the St. Moritz Hotel, 50 Central Park South. Known  
to be acquainted with Betty Buchalter and probably knows Buchalter  
and Shapiro.

MORSE, M. J. Mrs., apartment 8B, 161 West  
75th Street, New York City; sister of C. E. Kauvar and Phillip Kauvar,  
and half sister of Buchalter. (Her telephone number is Endicott  
2-7972). Her husband is believed to be M. J. Morse, whose occupation  
has not yet been determined.

MOSS, SARAH, Mrs., Hotel Beacon, 2130 Broadway,  
New York City (Tr 7-2500.). She is a sister of Buchalter and is  
reported to be a social director in charge of Camp Allegro, Berk-  
shire Inn, Pittsfield, Mass.; winter office, Hotel Beacon, tele-  
phone Su 7-3812. Buchalter's mother is Mrs. Rose Buchalter,  
who is residing at this address with her daughter, Mrs. Moss.

[redacted] Brooklyn,  
N. Y. Given as the sender of a letter addressed to Mrs.  
Rose Buchalter when the latter was in Denver in November 1933.  
Investigation will be conducted to determine if any possible as-  
sociation exists between the Richmond woman and the Buchalters.



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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

At the Marriage License Bureau of the City of New York, Borough of Manhattan, in volume 8, #18824, it was determined that LOUIS BUCHALTER married BETTY WASSERMAN on August 20, 1931. The information contained in the marriage license was as follows:

NAME  
Residence

LOUIS BUCHALTER  
215 W. 86th Street, New York City

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Occupation	Salesman
Birthplace	New York City
Father	Barnett, born in Russia
Mother	Rose Di Waltoff, born in Russia
Color	White
Age	34
First marriage	

NAME	ETTY WASSERMAN
Residence	255 W. 90th Street, New York City
Birthplace	London, England
Father	Abraham, born in England
Mother	Sarah Jacobs, born in Russia
Color	White
Age	29
Second marriage, widow since	1928

This license is dated August 20, 1931 and the marriage was performed on the same date at the Municipal Building by MICHAEL J. CRUISE, City Clerk. The witnesses to this marriage were Morris Wolensky and Feveromo, 201 East 35th Street, New York City.

It should be noted that information from the Verne Miller file above mentioned is to the effect that [REDACTED] accompanied Buchalter to Germany in 1933 in the course of which tour Buchalter is reported to have visited the baths at Carlsbad.

[REDACTED]

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The descriptions of Buchalter and Shapiro will not be set forth in this report inasmuch as the most complete descriptions available at this time are set forth in the reward circulars being distributed by the various field divisions of the Bureau throughout the country, dated November 8, 1937.

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THE NEW YORK OFFICE will conduct investigation .  
based on all available information looking to the location and  
apprehension of Buchalter and Shapiro.

- PENDING -

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501-980**

This case originated at NEW YORK CITY

File No. 60-302 MWM

Report Made at NEW YORK CITY	Date When Made 1/28/38	Period for Which Made 1/21/38	Report Made By [REDACTED]
Title CHANGED; FUR DRESSING INVESTIGATION; JACOB SHAPIRO with aliases: "Gurrah," Charles Shapiro, Morris Friedman, Samuel Dishouse, Samuel Disnahunen, Samuel Disnahunen, Lefty Garrar, Samuel Dishouse, Charles Goldborg, FUGITIVE, I. O. #1462; LOUIS BUCHALTER with aliases: "Lepke", Louis Buckhouse, Louis Buchalter, Louis Kaurer, Louis Cohen, Louis Buckalter, Louis Kaurer, Louis Buchdoltz, Louis Lauvar, Louis Saffer, Louis Kaurer, "Lepky", "Lefky", "Sefky", Lou Brodsky, FUGITIVE, I. O. #1468, et al.			Character of Case  ANTITRUST

b7C

46000

Synopsis of facts:

Summary of information relating to Subjects  
Shapiro and Buchalter.

Page  
2

Prosecutive action and offenses involved . . . . .  
(U.S. vs. Protective Fur Dressers Corporation,  
et al.)  
(U.S. vs. Fur Dressers Factor Corporation,  
et al.)

Other prosecutions pending . . . . . 10  
Narcotic indictment . . . . . 10  
Clothing manufacturing racket . . . . . 11  
Baking industry . . . . . 12

Background and activities of Subject Shapiro . . . 13

Background and activities of Subject Buchalter . . 55

Relatives, Associates and Connections  
of Subjects Buchalter & Shapiro, alphabetically 113

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10/1/38  
[Signature]

See 12x  
Copy A



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BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITIES OF LOUIS BUCHALTER WITH ALIASES

Subject Buchalter was born February 12, 1897 in New York City. His father, BERNARD, BARNET or DAVID BUCHALTER died about twenty years ago. He came to America from Russia and operated a hardware shop in the neighborhood of Essex Street, lower east side, New York City, and resided either on Henry or Clinton Street in the same neighborhood. His mother, ROSE BUCHALTER, age 74, is presently residing with her daughter, Mrs. SARAH F. MOSS, half-sister of Subject Buchalter, at the Beacon Hotel, Broadway and 75th Street, New York City.

Subject Buchalter's wife, BEATRICE, known as BETTY, is living with her father and stepmother (SARAH), Mr. and Mrs. SAMUEL or ABRAHAM ARBEITER in Apartment 12-B, 310 West 86th Street. Betty's [REDACTED] by a former marriage, who was legally adopted by Subject Buchalter, [REDACTED] and is also living in this apartment. ] b7C

Additional relatives of Subject Buchalter are as follows:

EMANUEL BUCHALTER, D.D.S., brother; residence, Apartment 12-A, 110 West 86th Street, New York City, who maintains dental offices at 57 West 57th Street, New York City and at 324 Roebling Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.

ISIDORE BUCHALTER, brother, residing in Apartment 12-F, 947 Montgomery Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., employed as a registered pharmacist by the Harvard Drug Co., 4239 Broadway, New York City.

Mrs. ROSE BUCHALTER'S first husband was named KAUVAR (deceased). They had several children who are half-brothers and half-sisters of Subject Buchalter. Their names and present addresses are as follows:

C. H. KAUVAR, Ph. D., Rabbi; residence, 1316 Gilpin Street, Denver, Colorado; connected with the Jewish synagogue at 1580 Gaylord Street as well as with the Denver University at Denver, Colorado.

Mrs. MAXWELL J. MORSE, housewife, residing at the Wellston Apartments, 161 West 75th Street, New York City with her husband and children. He is said to be in the real estate business.

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Mrs. SARAH F. MOSS, residing at the Hotel Beacon, 75th Street and Broadway, New York City, employed as a school teacher in New York City; also President and Manager of Camp Allegro in the Berkshires, Inc.; maintains a summer camp for girls at Pittsfield, Mass.

PHILIP KAUVAR, living with his wife DORA in Apartment 17-G, 175 West 93rd Street, New York City; one of the operators of the City Carriers Corp., 260 West 35th Street, New York City.

Additional information concerning all of the foregoing members of Subject Buchalter's family is contained in a section of this report entitled "Relatives, Associates and Connections."

On 9/2/15 as LOUIS BUCKALTER, Subject was arrested by Officer Miller, 7th Br., NYC PD, under No. B-14043, charged with burglary and felonious assault. Discharged by grand jury on September 20, 1915.

On 1/12/16 as LOUIS BUCKALTER, arrested by Officer Londrigan, D.B., NYC PD, charged with burglary. On January 24, 1916 discharged by Magistrate Levy, 1st Court.

On 2/29/16 as LOUIS KAUVER (also reported as Lauvar) aliases: Louis Buchalter and Louis Kauvar; arrested at Bridgeport, Conn. charged with theft. Received indeterminate sentence, Connecticut Reformatory, May 16, 1916. Admitted to Connecticut Reformatory, Cheshire, Conn., May 18, 1916 as No. 517; released on parole July 12, 1917; absconded July 23, 1917. Warrant issued for violation of parole, never executed; dismissed by Parole Board December 2, 1931.

The report of State's Attorney GLEN A. CARTER, Fairfield County, Conn., dated May 13, 1917, indicates that Subject Buchalter was charged with theft of property of the value of about five hundred dollars; that he came to Bridgeport with one [REDACTED] b7C apparently for the purpose of stealing as there was no evidence produced to show that they came there for any legitimate purpose. It appears that Buchalter and his companion stole two suitcases containing samples of jewelry which were left by a salesman outside the doorway of a store.

On the fingerprint card received at the Bureau from the State Reformatory, Cheshire, Conn., August 28, 1916, the following data appeared:

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76323

Height	5' 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Weight	152 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Build	Dark
Residence	33 Hallhouse Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.
Sister	Mrs. Bilthick, 555 East 141st Street, New York, N.Y. (No further information regarding this alleged sister is available at this time.)

The report of the Medical Director of the Connecticut Reformatory, being informative relative to this Subject at that time, is given herewith:

FAMILY Excellent father and mother. Father died in 1910. Mother is refined. Well educated. 1 sister is a school teacher. 1 brother a Rabbi with a Ph. D. degree. 1 stepbrother a dentist. 2 uncles dentists. 1 uncle a druggist. Cousin specializing in psychology at Columbia at present.

HOME Lived with mother after father's death 3 years. Mother went to live in Colorado and inmate went to live with sister. Home conditions the best.

PHYSICAL Normal

MENTAL Normal

SCHOOL 8 grades in 10 years.

VOCATIONAL Steady. Stock clerk or in clothing stores owned by family.

HABITS Good.

DELINQUENCY 2 previous arrests for burglary, discharged. Present arrest stole valise in Bridgeport because he was out of funds.

Inmate is a clean cut intelligent Hebrew, who led a normal life in spite of little supervision until Aug. 1916. Then worked for uncle who owns Orpheum at Savin Rock, who reduced his wages to \$8 a week. This he didn't like and went to New York, got in with a bad crowd doing petty jobs. His delinquency was probably result of mental conflict coupled with companions. Outlook is excellent.

INTELLIGENCE Above average.

ABILITY Good. "

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While at this institution, Subject Buchalter's only correspondent was recorded as PHILIP KAUFMAN, brother, Atlantic Hotel, Bridgeport, Conn.

On 9/28/17 Subject, as LOUIS BUCKALTER, was arrested by Officer Hayden, 2nd Br., NYC PD, charged with grand larceny, second degree, and on January 11, 1918 he was sentenced to one and one-half years at Sing Sing Prison. Received at Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, N.Y. on January 11, 1918 as Louis Buckalter; and on February 19, 1918 transferred to Auburn Prison, Auburn, N.Y. where he was received as No. A36326; and on May 21, 1918 was transferred to Great Meadow Prison, Comstock, N.Y. as No. 4474, from which institution he was discharged on January 27, 1919.

On 4/23/19 as LOUIS BUCKALTER, arrested by Officer Smyth, Main Office Division, NYC PD, for attempted burglary. On April 25, 1919 discharged by Magistrate Frothingham, 2nd Court.

On 1/22/20 as LOUIS COHEN, arrested by Officer Broderick, 18th Precinct, Detective Division, NYC PD, charged with attempted burglary, third degree. On June 21, 1920 sentenced to two and a half years imprisonment in Sing Sing Prison by Judge Matt, General Sessions Court. Received at Sing Sing Prison June 21, 1920. Released on parole March 16, 1922. Discharged upon expiration of the sentence on December 19, 1922. ✓

On 2/2/20 as LOUIS BUCKALTER, arrested by Officer Hayden, Main Office Division, NYC PD, charged with burglary. On February 26, 1920 discharged by grand jury.

On 9/11/25 as LOUIS BUCKALTER, arrested by Officer Winberry, East 8th Precinct, NYC PD, charged with robbery. On September 12, 1925 discharged by Magistrate Obermayer, 3rd Court.

On the following listed dates Subject Buchalter as LOUIS BUCKHOUSE, was arrested in company with Subject Shapiro:

October 19, 1925  
October 25, 1927  
July 17, 1929  
November 11, 1931

The section of this report entitled "Background and Activities of Jacob Shapiro with aliases," contains in chronological order all available information regarding these arrests, as well as

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general information concerning the criminal history of both subjects BUCHALTER and SHAPIRO, as well as their activities and connections in relation to various firms, organizations, individuals and criminal undertakings. In order to avoid repetition of such information at this point, the reader is referred to that section, particularly pages 18 to 51, inclusive, which information should be considered in relation to that which follows.

On May 6, 1929, an account in the name of "SARAH AREWITER in trust for BETTY BUCHALTER" was opened at the Harlem Savings Bank, 125th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York City, as savings account number 4 5 5 9 9 9. At that time Sarah gave her address as 48-42nd Street, Long Island City, New York, which address was later changed to 10 West 72nd Street, which is the 72nd Street number of the Majestic Apartments where subject Buchalter and Betty Buchalter were living at the time, and she stated that Betty Buchalter was her daughter. She stated her husband's name was SAM. She gave her father's name as LEIB and stated that she was born in Poland in 1868.

On July 2, 1930, she gave her address as 30 Mill Street, Newburgh, New York. In October, 1933, the balance in this account was \$1018.45.

On July 5, 1931, S. S. SCHRAGER, a known criminal associate of subject Buchalter, registered at the hotel Lexington, New York City in room 1419. On July 6, 1931, one C. H. MILLER, believed to have been subject VERNON MILLER of the Kansas City massacre case, registered in room 1409 of the same hotel. This is the first recorded contact of Vernon Miller and Schrage, although it appears that they were well acquainted with each other and had transactions in common.

On August 20, 1931, subject Buchalter married BETTY WASSERMAN at the Municipal Building, New York City, the ceremony having been performed by MICHAEL-J. GRUISE, City Clerk. The information contained in the marriage license was as follows:

Name	LOUIS BUCHALTER
Residence	215 East 86th Street, New York City
Occupation	Salesman
Birthplace	New York City
Father	BARNETT, born in Russia
Mother	ROSE DI WALTOFF, born in Russia
Color	White
Age	34
	First marriage

76326

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Name	BETTY WASSERMAN
Residence	255 West 90th Street, New York City
Birthplace	London, England
Father	Abraham, born in England
Mother	SARAH JACOBSON, born in Russia
Color	White
Age	29
	Second marriage, widow since 1928

The witnesses to this marriage were MORRIS WOLLENSKY and P. POVEROMO, both apparently of 201 East 35th Street, New York City.

It is noted here that Morris Wolensky, alias "Dimples" is a known close criminal associate of subject Buchalter and with others accompanied Buchalter to Europe in 1933.

On November 17, 1931, subject Buchalter and his wife Betty established their residence in apartment 17J, Magestic apartments 115 Central Park West, at 72nd Street.

On March 15, 1932, the Bureau of Narcotics, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., issued a confidential list in which was included subject Buchalter, said list containing information to the effect that he resided at 98 Riverside Drive, New York City (apparently a fictitious address); that he was a friend of the late JACK DIAMOND and was then, in 1932, reported associated with SAM BERNSTEIN. It was noted that his hair was brown and his occupation was given as "manager".

On February 19, 1933, subject Buchalter as LOUIS SAFFER of New York City, A. LONG of Newark, N. J., (Abraham Zwillman alias Longie) BEN KUTLOW, of New York City, and A. SPITZEL, Broad Street, Newark, registered at the Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, Arkansas, and remained there until March 6, 1933. Subject Buchalter's wife, joined them during their stay at this hotel.

The party checked in late at night, apparently having just arrived by automobile from California. LONG apparently was the

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RELATIVES, ASSOCIATES AND CONNECTIONS

Of Subjects JACOB SHAPIRO with aliases,  
Fugitive, I. O. 1462, and LOUIS BUCHALTER,  
with aliases, Fugitive, I. O. 1468.

(\* preceding name indicates criminal associate or connection).

(# preceding name indicates relative).

\*AARONSON, PHILIP, defendant, Fur Dresser case of U.S. vs.  
Fur Dressers Factor Corporation, et al. (This case hereinafter  
referred to as FDFC).

\*ACME FUR DRESSING COMPANY, INC., defendant, FDFC.

\*ADELMAN, A., refer to Axel Adelman.

\*ADELMAN, LOUIS. Named as associate of subject Shapiro in  
confidential list [REDACTED] issued March 15, 1932 by Bureau of Nar-  
cotics, Washington, D. C. 62  
67D

\*ADELPHI FUR DRESSING CORPORATION. Defendant in case U. S. vs.  
Protective Fur Dressers Corporation, et al. (This case hereinafter  
referred to as PFDC).

\*ADLER, JACOB ARTHUR, Attorney-at-Law, office at 551 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N. Y. (His office is also reported as being at  
161 West 50th Street and at 151 West 40th Street). Telephone  
number Vanderbilt 3-7757, residence, 241 Central Park West, tele-  
phone Trafalgar 7-4359.

Represented subject Shapiro and HARRY GREENBERG (lieutenant of  
Shapiro and Buchalter) in deportation proceedings, Ellis Island,  
N. Y. in 1932 and 1933. Represented subject Shapiro in connec-  
tion with various arrests by Police Department, New York City.

Represented both subjects in trial of U. S. vs. Protective Fur  
Dressers Corporation, et al. Visited both subjects at U. S.  
Detention Headquarters. His telephone was called on several





Majestic Apartments where subject Buchalter and his wife Betty were living at the time. She stated her husband's name was Sam and gave her father's name as Leib. She stated she was born in Poland in 1888. In October, 1933, the balance in this account was \$1818.45.

On March 3, 1933, she opened an account at the Central Savings Bank, 74th Street and Broadway. She opened account #109570 in the name of Sarah Arbeiter, 115 Central Park West, Apartment 17J, New York City. This account was closed out as of July 1, 1936, at which time she gave her address as 30 Mill Street, Newburgh, N.Y. On the same day under account #164246 Sarah Arbeiter's husband "Samuel" opened an account at the same bank in trust for Sarah Arbeiter's daughter Betty Arbeiter.

She is described as: age, 60; height, 5' 2"; weight, 150 lbs; build, medium; hair, black; face, round; complexion, red cheeks; dress, fair.

10/15  
10/8  
X #ARBEITER, BEN, brother of Betty Buchalter, accompanied Betty Buchalter and VIVIAN MATTHIAS alias Mrs. V. Allen, from New York City to Atlantic City, N.J. where they stopped at the Hotel Ritz-Carlton, from July 1, until July 6, 1933. According to the 1933 City Directory, Ben Arbeiter was listed as a chauffeur, residing at 2080 Wallace Avenue, Bronx, N.Y., wife's name, Sylvia. It is recalled at that time Betty's father, Abraham Arbeiter resided at 2077 Wallace Avenue. He moved from 2080 Wallace Avenue around August 15, 1933, and gave his forwarding address as care of his father-in-law A. RIESER, 2076 Wallace Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. He has also been reported as a bodyguard and chauffeur for subject Buchalter.

He is described as: age, 28; (1933); height, 5' 8"; weight, 160 lbs.; hair, black; eyes, brown; average dresser.

10/15  
10/8  
X ARBEITER, BLANCHE, on November 29, 1937, a communication addressed to Blanche Arbeiter (typed), 310 West 86th Street, New York City, bearing the return address (printed), Box 3, Washington Bridge Station, New York N.Y., was received at that address.

10/15  
10/8  
X ARBEITER, SAMUEL. See Abraham and Mrs. Abraham (Sarah) Arbeiter above.

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*NR*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] DR. EMANUEL BUCHALTER, Dentist, brother of  
subject Buchalter who formerly lived at 426 Eastern Parkway,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.; but who is presently residing at 110 West 86th  
Street, apartment 12-A. [REDACTED] presently attending  
[REDACTED]

*b7C*

#BUCHALTER, BEATRICE.

*10/2*  
*10/2*  
*10/2*  
*10/2*  
*10/2*

BETTY BUCHALTER'S first husband was JACK WASSERMAN, a World War  
veteran, who died September 30, 1928. Included in his estate  
was a life insurance policy in the amount of \$1,000. of the New  
York Life Insurance Company, the beneficiary of which was his son,  
[REDACTED] in payments  
amounting to \$44.30 a month, with interest until his 18th birthday,  
and then payments of \$100. a month until the face of the policy is  
paid. These monthly checks are deposited in account #228764,  
Drydock Savings Institute, 740 Lexington Avenue, New York City.  
The monthly checks are made payable to Mrs. BETTY BUCHALTER,  
[REDACTED] Minor, and the checks are mailed  
care of ARBEITER, 310 West 86th Street, New York City.

*b7C*

*Betty*  
*Buchalter*

As BETTY WASSERMAN, she was married to LOUIS BUCHALTER on  
August 20, 1931, at New York City, the ceremony having been per-  
formed by MICHAEL J. CRUISE, City Clerk. According to the mar-  
riage records, her address at that time was 235 West 90th Street,  
New York City; birthplace, London, England; father, "ABRAHAM -  
born in England"; mother, Sarah Jacobs, born in Russia; color -  
white, age 29. The witnesses to this marriage were: MORRIS  
WOLENSKY and P. POTROMO, 201 East 35th Street, New York City.  
This witness Wolensky apparently is the same as "DIMPLES" WOLENSKY  
who has been closely associated with subject Buchalter and who  
accompanied him to Europe in 1933.

It appears that Betty Buchalter's parents were divorced and that  
each remarried, her mother being Mrs. SAM FINKEL, who in 1933 re-  
sided in Vallint, Oklahoma, and who visited New York City during  
May and June, 1933; her father being ABRAHAM ARBEITER, as previously  
stated herein.

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In the year 1929, Mrs. SARAH ARBEITER opened account #455999 at the Harlem Savings Bank, 124 East 125th Street, New York City, designated as the account of "SARAH ARBEITER, in Trust for BETTY BUCHALTER", her daughter. (See Sarah Arbeiter in this section for further particulars).

At the Drydock Savings Bank, 742 Lexington Avenue, in 1933, she opened account #203365, as BETTY BUCHALTER, 1104 Elder Avenue, Bronx, which account was closed out as of July 10, 1934. On the latter date she gave her address as 25 Central Park West. She gave her husband's name as LOUIS BUCHALTER; occupation, salesman; father's name ABE ARBEITER. On one of the latest deposit tickets her address appears as 115 West 86th Street.

On July 1, 1936, account was opened at the Central Savings Bank, 74th Street and Broadway, New York City, account #164246, designated as the account of "SAMUEL ARBEITER in Trust for Betty Arbeiter". The address given in connection with this account was 310 West 86th Street, New York City.

As BETTY BUCHALTER, in May, 1933, she applied for United States passport. She stated she was born in London, England; that she was residing at 115 West 85th Street, New York City; that she had also made application for passport in 1931 and that she was the wife of LOUIS BUCHALTER.

BETTY was also with subject Buchalter as Louis Saffer during his sojourn with ZWILLMAN alias Long, BEN KUTLOW, and A. SPITZEL in the Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, Arkansas, from February 9, 1933, to March 6, 1933.

During the summer of 1933, Betty Buchalter was constantly in the company of VIVIAN MATHIS alias Mrs. B. ALLEN, the paramour of VERNON C. MILLER. Their activities and movements are set out in detail in the section of this report pertaining to the background and activities of subject Buchalter.

BETTY is presently residing with her father and step-mother, Mr. and Mrs. ARBEITER, apartment 12-B, 310 West 86th Street, New York City, together with [REDACTED] Close contact is being maintained with Mr. I. OLSON, superintendent of the apartment

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house at this address relative to the movements and contacts of the ARBEITER-BUCHALTER family. They have been living at this address since June 1, 1937, previously to which they resided at No. 1469 -55th Street, Brooklyn, New York. In negotiating the lease on his present apartment, Abraham Arbeiter named as a reference his former landlord, M. GARFIELD at that address.

Betty has been described as, age about 40, height 5 ft. 6 in.; weight 165 pounds; build heavy; large bust; hair black; dress, wears dark clothes; complexion dark; peculiarities, extra-long eyelashes, very noticeable.

✓ #BUCHALTER, DORA, alias of Dora (Mrs. PHILIP) Kauvar.

# BUCHALTER, D.D.S., EMANUEL.

Brother of subject Buchalter, residence 110 West 86th Street, New York City, apartment 12-A. (telephone Trafalgar 7-2082). Dental offices at 57 West 57th Street (Wickersham 2-3320) and at 324 Roebling Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. (Stagg 2-8511). Family (immediate) consists of his wife REEA. [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] Formerly resided at 426 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, N. Y. On various occasions in the past subject Buchalter gave as his own residence address 426 Eastern Parkway and also 324 Roebling Street, although he never resided at either place.

Subject Buchalter is said to have frequently visited his brother, EMANUEL, at the latter's present address up until several months ago. Close contact is being maintained with Mr. CHARLES F. LOMMERIN, who is superintendent of this apartment house.

Dr. BUCHALTER is treasurer of Camp ALLEGRO in the Berkshires (Inc.), the president of which is subject Buchalter's half-sister, Mrs. SARAH F. MOSS, and which corporation operates a large camp for girls at Pittsfield, Mass. Dr. Buchalter and his family have been frequent visitors at this camp, and he has recently completed an elaborate new cottage at the camp for the personal use of himself and his family.

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He is described as being about 45 years of age, height 5 ft. 7 in.; weight 150 pounds; hair dark; build medium; has a long sharp nose; wears glasses.

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[Son of BETTY BUCHALTER and adopted son of subject Buchalter.]  
Residing with his mother in care of the ARBEITERS, apartment 12-B,  
310 West 86th Street, New York City. In 1934 was legally adopted  
by subject Buchalter through the Surrogate Court, New York County,

In addition to the life insurance policy left him by his father,  
JACK WASSERMAN, concerning which information is shown under  
BEATRICE BUCHALTER in this report, an amount of \$1,470.30 repre-  
senting adjusted compensation of his father, was paid to his  
mother by the Veterans Administration, and she is holding this  
amount in trust for him.

b7C

Daughter of EMANUEL BUCHALTER, residing in apartment 12-A,  
110 West 86th Street,

b7C

\*# BUCHALTER, ISIDORE.

Brother of subject Buchalter, resides with his wife at 947 Mont-  
gomery Street, Brooklyn, as Mr. and Mrs. IRVING BUCHALTER. (Tele-  
phone Slocum 6-9778). Employed as a Registered Pharmacist in  
the Harvard Drug Company, 4329 Broadway, New York City, proprietor  
named LANDAU, (telephone Washington Heights 7-3957). Said to

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occupy the apartment of his half-sister, Mrs. SARAH F. MOSS, Hotel Beacon, New York City, during the summers while she is at Camp Allegro.

DR ~~X~~ BUCHALTER, PHILIP, alias of Philip Kauvar.

1767  
176 ~~X~~ BUCHALTER, RHEA.

Wife of EMANUEL BUCHALTER, described as being 35 to 40 years old; 5 ft. 4 in. tall, weight, 125 pounds, black hair, slim build.

1767  
176 ~~X~~ BUCHALTER, Mrs. ROSE.

Mother of subject Buchalter, presently residing with her daughter and subject Buchalter's half-sister Mrs. Sarah F. Moss, at the Hotel Beacon, 75th Street and Broadway, New York City. She is 74 years old and previously lived with her son Dr. C. H. KAUVAR in Denver, Colorado. She is the widow of BARNET BUCHALTER, who died about twenty years ago. From this marriage, her children were subject Louis Buchalter, Dr. Emanuel Buchalter and Isidore Buchalter. Her maiden name was Rose De Waltoff. She was previously married to Solomon Salkind Kauvar, also deceased, with whom she came to the United States from Russia in 1892. From this marriage her children were Dr. C. H. Kauvar, Philip Kauvar, Mrs. Sarah F. Moss and Mrs. Maxwell J. Morse. Additional information regarding these individuals is set forth under their respective names in this section of the report.

44-111-1  
176 ~~X~~ BUCHALTER, SAMUEL.

44-111-1  
176-2450 A pharmacist, proprietor of a drug store at 607 Hegenan Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y., states that he has a cousin named Isidore Buchalter who is a druggist in Manhattan, address unknown; he stated he has not been in contact with this Buchalter family for a great many years and could furnish no information about them; that they were distant cousins of his and that his family had never visited them. He stated he did not know of any relative named Louis Buchalter.

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who has operated in Denver, Colorado, is said to have used the name of DR. C. H. KAUFMAN, half brother of subject BUCHALTER, as a reference in connection with his schemes. He is further said to be acquainted with and in touch with subject BUCHALTER; also said to be an associate of "OSSIP WOOLINSKY" whose address was said to be probably at 165 Broadway, New York City, the latter having been stated to be a racketeer who was also closely associated with subject Buchalter. (See Moe "Dimples" Wolinsky).

EXPERT FUR DRESSERS COMPANY, INC. - defendant in FDFC, et al.

FUR LANE FUR DRESSING COMPANY, INC. - defendant in PFDC, et al.

FEIN, LOUIS,

1268 Stratford, Avenue, Bronx, New York, telephoned by BETTY BUCHALTER on September 14, 1933, at which time she addressed him as father.

On October 27, 1933, a man called at the Hotel Pierre, gave his name as Louis Fein and said that he was MRS. BUCHALTER'S father and said that he came to get her trunk and suitcase. He subsequently took the trunk and suitcase to the World Moving and Storage Company, 402 East 3rd Street, New York City, which will be subsequently mentioned in this section.

When the Buchalters left the Majestic Apartments, prior to moving to the Pierre Hotel, they stored some property at this place which is operated by MILTON SPITZER. The exact relationship of this man to Betty Buchalter has not been established.

\*FEINBERG, SOL,

named with subjects SHAPIRO and BUCHALTER and 13 others in an indictment returned by Extraordinary Grand Jury of New York County, August 9, 1937, charging conspiracy to extort money from clothing manufacturers.

\*FEIDMAN, BENJAMIN,

named with subject BUCHALTER and others in Narcotic indictment of November 30, 1937. Bail fixed at \$50,000.

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\*FEUERSTEIN, JACK.

1074 One of the strong arm defendants in FDPC, et al, played a minor part and denies any knowledge of or connection with subjects BUCHALTER and SHAPIRO. Presently driving a taxicab and residing at 484 Liberty Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

\*FIFTH AVENUE BAR AND GRILL - See Harrister Restaurant.\*FINK, AUGUST,

31-301-132 said to be a member of the SHAPIRO-BUCHALTER mob, in connection with the dress industry racket in 1934. [REDACTED] photograph on file New York Division, fingerprint classification  $\frac{29}{4} \frac{1}{0} \frac{4}{4}$ .

62  
670\*FINKEL, JOSHUA, M.D.,

368 Clinton Avenue, Newark, N. J., telephone Bigelow 3-4533, received telephone call April 18, 1933 from Endicott 2-0669, unpublished telephone of subject Buchalter at Majestic Apartments.

\*FINKEL, MRS. S.M.,

mother of BETTY BUCHALTER, in August, 1933, resided at Valliant, Oklahoma, with her second husband, SAM FINKEL. They were drygoods merchants and had been in Valliant for three or four years, having come from New York City.

Mrs. Finkel had no children by her second husband, but three by her first, one son and two daughters, including Betty Buchalter, all living in New York City.

Mrs. Finkel was in New York City during May and June, 1933.

\*FINKELSTEIN, SAMUEL,

132 Hard Lane, Lawrence, Long Island, New York, telephone Cedarhurst



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~~/\*~~KATZ, LOUIS alias of LOUIS ~~TASHMAN~~.

~~/\*~~KATZ, MARTIN.

Named with subject Buchalter and others in narcotic indictment of November 30, 1937.

~~/\*~~KATZENBERG, YASHA.

Named with subject Buchalter and others in narcotic indictment of November 30, 1937.

Katzenberg was a fugitive under this indictment and was recently apprehended in Roumania, and it is understood that proceedings have been instituted for his extradition.

~~/\*~~KAUFMAN, MORRIS., Defendant in FDFC, et al.

#KAUWAR, C. H.

LHD, Rabbi, residence 1316 Gilpin Street, Denver, Colorado.  
Study: 1530 Gaylord Street. Half-brother of subject Buchalter.  
Listed in "Who's Who in America" for 1936-1937, as follows:

"KAUWAR, C(harles) E(liezer) Hillel, rabbi; b. Vilna, Russia, Aug. 14, 1879; s. Solomon S. and Rose M. (De Waltoff) K.; came to U.S., 1892. B.A., Coll. City of New York, 1900; M.A., Columbia, 1901; rabbi Jewish Theol. Sem., 1902, L.H.D., 1909; m. Belle G. Bluestone, of New York City, June 25, 1909; children-Solomon S., Abraham Judah, Golda Fage. Rabbi Beth ha-Medrosh ha-Gadol Synagogue, Denver, since 1902; elected for life, 1919; prof. rabbinic lit. U. of Denver. Organized Denver Hebrew Sch., 1905; established Belle G. Kaiwar Fund for Edn., 1930, Nat. Jewish Edn. Fund, 1933. Past president Jewish Welfare Bd., Central Jewish Council, Denver Philos. Soc., Midwest br. Rabbinical Conf.; v.p. United Synagogues America; Colo. del. 1st Am. Jewish Congress. Mem. Denver Morals Commn. Author: Birke Aboth Comments; What is Judaism (in Hebrew)? "

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#KAUVAR, C. H. (Continued)

According to DAVID N. ~~CHAPMAN~~, 1050 Sherman Street, Denver, Colorado, Dr. Kauvar, who enjoys a splendid reputation in Denver and apparently is a highly respected citizen, allows the use of his name as a reference in connection with certain deals whether they are honest or not. In this connection he stated that he was swindled by PHILIP J. RAGOOLAND and FREDERICK FRANCIS in a mining deal, and that Ragooland and Francis used Dr. Kauvar's name as a background for their crooked deals. (See Frederick Francis).

It has been developed that Dr. Kauvar's wife is presently visiting MAX ~~SPERBER~~ at 4402 Western Avenue, Westmount, Canada, near Montreal. It appears that Max Sperber is related to Mrs. Kauvar. It is said that he does considerable legal work for racketeers.

#KAUVAR, DORA.

Wife of PHILIP KAUVAR.

#KAUVAR, PHILIP, alias Philip Buchalter, residence, apartment 17-G, 175 West 93rd Street, New York City.

In negotiating lease for this apartment in October, 1936, Philip Kauvar stated that he was president of the Joben Express Company, Inc., 230 West 36th Street, New York City. As references he named YORKTOWN BAKERY, 35th Street and 8th Avenue; personally acquainted with BENJAMIN A. ~~BENSIGER~~, Vice-President; SAM ~~LAUIT~~, 247 West 34th Street, New York City; BEN ~~ESKOW~~, President of the Howard Trucking Company, 550 West 25th Street, New York City, and JACK ~~ALTMAN~~, 257 West 35th Street, New York City. (Also see sections herein entitled: "City Carriers Corporation", page 139; "Benjamin Eskow", page 149; "Jack Altman", page 116.)

During subject Buchalter's incarceration in U. S. Detention Headquarters from November 12 to December 3, 1936, he was visited by PHIL and DORA KAUVAR, who then gave their names as PHIL and DORA BUCHALTER.

RB - 12  
(BWC)

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New Jersey and at his office, 296 Ridge Road, Lyndhurst, New Jersey. It has also been reported that Moretti recently purchased the U. S. Linen Supply Company, Inc., 19 Mill Street, Paterson, N. J., Armory 4-3367.

MOROSCO, WALTER

Husband of Corinne Griffith, whose home at 707 North Arden Street, Beverly Hills, California, or vicinity, was rented by Benjamin "Bugs" Siegel, for six months beginning about February, 1934, it having been reported that the rental was paid in advance in cash.

MORRIS, H. H.

Pittman, H. J., friend of J. P. Creamer. Accompanied Creamer and Borish on trip to Baltimore, Md., October 11, 1937, visited Raleigh Manufacturers, Inc. and attended poker game at Lord Baltimore Hotel at which Borish, Carl Shapiro and one Tannenbaum were present.

MORSE, MAXWELL J.

161 W. 75th Street, New York City, apartment 8-B. Mrs. Maxwell J. Morse is a half-sister of subject Buchalter. Maxwell J. Morse is said to be in the real estate business in Astoria, Queens, N. Y. C., and while not believed to be wealthy, is apparently moderately prosperous. Living with them are their two daughters, one a high school student, age about 18 and the other a school teacher, about 30 years old. During the summer of 1933 this family was contacted telephonically by subject Buchalter and his wife. They are now visited occasionally by Isidore Buchalter and Mrs. Sarah F. Moss.

MOSS, MRS. SARAH F.

Hotel Beacon, 2130 Broadway, New York City (southwest corner 75th Street) Half-sister of subject Buchalter, resides with her mother, Mrs. Rose Buchalter and [REDACTED] divorced wife of Jules Perfit who operates the Hilna Motors, Inc., 5600 18th Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. b7c

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501-2774**

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

IW

This case originated at: NEW YORK CITY

N.Y. File No. 60-302

Report made at  NEW YORK CITY	Date when made  2/9/39	Period for which made: 1/26, 27 & 28/39.	Report made by  [REDACTED] b7C
Title PUR Dressing Investigation. LOUIS BUCHALTER, with aliases-FUGITIVE, I. O. #1468, et al.			Character of Case  ANTITRUST, HARBORING, CONSPIRACY TO HARBOR.

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

File reviewed and all outstanding  
leads set out.

*Summary Report*

- P -

## DETAILS:

The New York field office file in this case was reviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and all outstanding leads for the various field offices are being set out. b7C

The undeveloped leads set out herein for the respective field offices are being numbered, and it is requested that all the field offices, in reporting their investigative activity in the future, refer to the numbers of the respective leads appearing in this report. The Bureau has repeatedly instructed that all investigation

Approved and Forwarded:	Special Agent In Charge		
<i>Freight Broker</i>		60-1501-	2774
Copies of this report		FEB 10 1939	
3 Bureau 6 New York 2 All Field Offices except Aberdeen, (Birmingham, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Huntington, Oklahoma City, Portland and Richmond, Dallas.		COPIES DESTROYED 140 AUG 7 1970 FEB 10 A.M. [Signature] UG. ONE HARBO	

[REDACTED] fur dealers, New York City, reported to be backed by Buchalter and Shapiro and especially favored by them in their dealings in the fur industry.

[REDACTED] subject Jacob Shapiro whose last known address is [REDACTED] Brooklyn, N. Y., where she resides with [REDACTED]. Her mother, whose name has not yet been established, is also reported residing with her at that address.

By virtue of a mail cover placed for that address, it was learned that all of the following names were used on mail addressed to [REDACTED] and received by the occupants without being returned: [REDACTED]

b7C [REDACTED] Hotel Hatfield, 103 East 29th Street, New York City, which address Shapiro gave as his residence when arraigned in instant case in November 1933, which was confirmed by [REDACTED] upon telephonic inquiry from Special Agent [REDACTED] on November 22, 1933. At this time [REDACTED] in response to the inquiry, advised agent [REDACTED] that if Shapiro was in jail "Somebody might get hurt."

SPITZER, MILTON, apartment B, 1710 Andrews Avenue, reported to be the owner and operator of the World Moving and Storage Company, 402 East 3rd Street, New York City, in which company Buchalter is reported to have an interest.

SPITZER, NATHAN, Dr., 1710 Andrews Avenue, New York City. Brother of Milton Spitzer and reported to be patronized by racketeers and gangsters who are supposed to have had Dr. Spitzer treat gunshot wounds for them without making the necessary reports to the Police.

WITTY, DAVID, residing at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel in October 1933 and addressed as "Uncle David" by Betty Buchalter over the telephone. He was later reported to be residing at the telephone address of Wisconsin 7-8527, the street address of which is yet to be determined.

[redacted] reported to be residing at [redacted] Brooklyn, N. Y., a short distance away from the address listed for subject Shapiro. He is reported to be a close associate of Shapiro and had his children at [redacted] with Shapiro's [redacted]

On November 10, 1937 confidential informant of Special Agent [redacted] whose name is known to the Bureau, called at the New York office and stated that he believed [redacted] Otto Albrush were contacting Buchalter and Shapiro. He advised that it was known to him that Buchalter and Shapiro had financed [redacted] in a trucking business and Albrush in the dress business in New York City, and that it was reasonable to believe, inasmuch as these persons were close associates of Buchalter and Shapiro, that they were probably the ones who were contacting him. Accordingly an interview was arranged between informant and agents at the New York office, which was held on November 12, 1937. At this time the informant advised that [redacted] was financed in [redacted] L. and S. Trucking Company, 16 West 24th Street (St 9-1878) and that Otto Albrush (phonetic) was financed in his children's dress business located some place on Sixth Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets by Buchalter and Shapiro. He stated that Albrush formerly worked for one [redacted] Uwanna Dress Company on West 23rd Street, between 5th and 6th Avenue, but when [redacted] refused to take Albrush in as his partner Buchalter and Shapiro financed Albrush so that he was able to start a business of his own at the place above indicated.

The informant advised that both [redacted] Albrush know each other quite well and seem to be very good friends and that both of them are implicitly trusted by Buchalter and Shapiro. The informant describes [redacted] as being a young man in his twenties, medium height, dark features and describes Albrush as about 42 years of age 5'7½", 165 lbs. to 170 lbs.; dark hair; very well dressed. He stated that [redacted] owns a Cadillac car and that it is significant to him that [redacted] has disappeared from the city for the last six or seven months for a day or two each week, telling no one where he is going nor indicating upon his return where he has been. Albrush, he states, patronizes the Clarendon Bar and Grill, located at 22 East 31st Street between 5th and Madison Avenues, and that both Albrush [redacted] often have lunch together on 24th Street or in that vicinity.

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It has been determined that [REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED] New York City, and has an unlisted telephone which number has not as yet been determined.

Investigation will be conducted to determine Albrush's correct name and his business and residence addresses.

The informant was closely questioned by agents relative to his contacts, and it was believed by agents that he is conversant with criminal activities in New York City, as he represents. He will be contacted from time to time for any information he may have relative to instant case.

In a communication received by the New York office from the New York Times, information was advanced which was taken from an anonymous communication to the effect that one [REDACTED] purchased an automobile for Shapiro from the Denver Motor Company, Southern Boulevard, New York City, and that [REDACTED] acted as principal in this purchase. Both are reported to be close friends of Buchalter and Shapiro. [REDACTED] Phil-Or Textile Shrinking Corporation, 91 7th Avenue between 15th and 16th Streets (Wa 9-8448) and [REDACTED] is reported to be [REDACTED] Royal Paper Company, East 156th Street. The communication indicated that he resided at [REDACTED] however, a check of the Bronx address-telephone directory did not disclose any one named [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] address, nor the Olinville telephone number. However, further investigation will be conducted on the basis of this information.

On November 11, 1937, a telegram was received at the New York office from the Seattle office to the effect that an informant at Spokane, Washington, has identified a newspaper photograph of Shapiro as being a likeness of an individual observed at Spokane, Washington, driving a car bearing New York 1937 license plates [REDACTED]. Immediately upon receipt of this telegram a check was made of the Motor Vehicle Bureau, New York City, which reflected that license [REDACTED] was issued to the American Fur Designer, 356 Seventh Avenue, New York City, for a 1938 Buick sedan, motor No. [REDACTED]. The proof of ownership for this car filed with the Motor Vehicle Bureau lists [REDACTED] American Fur Designer, both residing at [REDACTED] Brooklyn, N. Y. The aforesaid information was subsequently dispatched to the Seattle office by wire and on the same day the Seattle office advised that [REDACTED] was not identical with either subject in this case.

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In connection with this matter, a wire was also directed to the Detroit office requesting that they contact the Buick Motor Company, Detroit, for the purpose of ascertaining to whom the 1938 Buick sedan, motor [REDACTED] had been originally consigned. As yet, no reply has been received and they are being notified to discontinue that lead.

to  
As the information furnished this office that Phillip Kauvar, half-brother of subject Buchalter, was engaged in the trucking business, a check of the New York State Motor Vehicle Bureau, New York City, revealed that there was no operators or owners license issued at any time in the name of Kauvar. Further investigation will be made to determine the present address and occupation of this individual.

Inquiry was made by agents at the Tudor Hall Apartments, 426 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, New York, indicated as a former address of Dr. Emanuel Buchalter, for the purpose of obtaining what information was available pertinent to the relatives of Buchalter. The superintendent of the apartment advised that the same type of inquiry had been made of him several times in the past by law enforcement officers, whose identity he could not furnish at this time, and that he furnished them the only information available to him, which was that Dr. Emanuel Buchalter, also known as Edward Buchalter, resided in the apartment house for about six years, moving from there in about 1934, the new address not being known to the superintendent. He also advised that living in the apartment house with Buchalter were [REDACTED] the family moved, [REDACTED] but whose name was not known to the superintendent. He stated that Dr. Buchalter, who was a dentist, did not have an office at his residence but maintained an office at 324 Roebling Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. and another one at some unknown address in New York City. The only other information pertaining to him was the fact that Dr. Buchalter maintained a bank account in the Manufacturers Trust Company, 225 Havemeyer Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. He did not know where Buchalter's children had attended school but believed it was at some school in the neighborhood.

At Public School 241, President Street and Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, [REDACTED] was interviewed, and she caused a search of the school records to be made, which reflected that the only Buchalter who had ever attended the school was [REDACTED] who in 1934 resided at [REDACTED] Brooklyn. [REDACTED] birth date was given as [REDACTED] and his father was listed as [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] address. It was

indicated that [REDACTED]  
 entering [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] and indicated he was [REDACTED]  
 Moshulu Parkway, between Gaynor and Sedgwick Avenues,  
 Bronx, New York. Questioned about the [REDACTED] which [REDACTED]  
 attended, [REDACTED] advised that it was located at 296 New York  
 Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. and to the best of her recollection its regis-  
 tration included only very young children.

Investigation was conducted at 947 Montgomery Street,  
 Brooklyn, N. Y., previously reported as the address of Isidore  
 Buchalter, brother of one of the subjects, but Mrs. Feinstein, who  
 stated she was superintendent of the apartment house in the absence  
 of her husband, advised that as far as she knew there was no one  
 registered in the apartment house named Isidore Buchalter, but that  
 a man named Irving Buchalter occupied apartment 12F with his wife  
 for the past year and one-half. She stated that he was a druggist  
 whose business is located in Manhattan and that she could vouch for  
 his good character. It was apparent that Mrs. Feinstein was on very  
 good terms with Buchalter and his wife and so the purpose of agents'  
 inquiries were not made known to her, so that it could not be established  
 through this source whether Irving Buchalter is identical with Isidore  
 Buchalter. It should be noted that only "I. Buchalter" appeared on the  
 apartment house directory. It should also be noted that the telephone  
 directory for Brooklyn lists Irving Buchalter as residing at the  
 Montgomery Street address.

Inquiry was also made at 607 Hegeman Avenue. Samuel  
 Buchalter, druggist, was interviewed, and stated that he had no rela-  
 tives named Louis Buchalter, but that he had a cousin named Isidore  
 Buchalter who was a druggist at some address in Manhattan. Samuel  
 Buchalter stated he had not been in contact with this Buchalter  
 family for a great many years and could furnish no information about  
 them. He stated that they were distant cousins of his and that his  
 family had never visited them. It was apparent from Samuel Buchalter's  
 attitude that he was telling the truth in this respect.

On the evening of November 15, 1937 a call was received from  
 [REDACTED] of the Bureau, who dictated the following, which was  
 received from the [REDACTED] Lily Pons, Maryland, [REDACTED]

"Notice for Apprehension Shapiro and Buchalter just received this office. A man named [REDACTED] has held correspondence with three springs fisheries located Lily Pons, Maryland, and address given was [REDACTED] Bronx, N. Y. A check sent him dated [REDACTED] number [REDACTED] Farmers and Mechanics National Bank, Frederick, Maryland, was deposited by him in the National City Bank, N. Y., Washington Heights branch."

In view of the foregoing, inquiry was made at the Washington Heights branch of the National City Bank, 4255 Broadway, New York City, where [REDACTED] caused a search to be made of the bank records, which reflected that there was no account of anyone named [REDACTED]. On the possibility that the check was merely cashed for [REDACTED] instead of his having an account there [REDACTED] caused a further check to be made of the photographs of checks in the possession of the bank, but there was no record of any check having been cashed by the bank on the date mentioned.

At [REDACTED] Bronx, N. Y., [REDACTED] was interviewed, and he stated that a man named [REDACTED] resided on the [REDACTED] building for the [REDACTED] and that to the best of his knowledge this [REDACTED] was employed as some kind of a food inspector, although he did not believe that it was with any Government or municipal agency. [REDACTED] described [REDACTED] as being about [REDACTED] complexion; and stated that [REDACTED] resided with [REDACTED]. He stated as far as he could ascertain [REDACTED] was a man of good character; spent much of his time at home and paid his bills regularly. This information was telephonically communicated to the Bureau by Special Agent [REDACTED] of the New York office immediately upon its receipt.

While in the vicinity of the Washington Heights branch of the National City Bank, discreet inquiry was made at the Harvard Drug Company, 4239 Broadway, where it was determined that the proprietor of the drugstore was a man named Landau. Under pretext of inquiring about Red Cross violations it was learned from him that Isidore Buchalter, brother of subject Buchalter, has been employed as a pharmacist in the Harvard Drug Company, having formerly been employed in the Fort Washington Drugstore, which went out of business some time ago. It was further determined that Isidore

Buchalter was also known as Irving Buchalter and resides at 947 Montgomery Street, Brooklyn, New York. During agents' interview in the drugstore it was observed that a pharmacist's ticket or certificate, issued by the State of New York in the name of Isidore Buchalter, was hanging on the wall. Landau, at his own initiative pointed out Isidore Buchalter to agents and it was observed that he is about 5'6" tall; light brown hair, partly bald; round face; 150 lbs., stocky build; rimless eyeglasses. He appeared to be slightly over 30 years of age. Landau volunteered the information that it was not generally known around the drugstore that Isidore Buchalter was the brother of subject, and he had not made it known to anyone.

At the Harlem Savings Bank, 124 East 125th Street, New York City, the records reflected that account No. 455999 was in the name of Sarah Arbeiter in trust for Betty Buchalter, her daughter. The account was opened in the year 1929, Mrs. Sarah Arbeiter giving her address at that time as 43 - 12nd Street, Long Island City, New York. Mrs. Sarah Arbeiter gave her father's name as Leib, and her mother's name as Esther, and that she was born in Poland in 1888. This account, since its inception, has been very inactive and the last transaction was a withdrawal on July 2, 1936. Mrs. Sarah Arbeiter at the time gave her address as 30 Mill Street, Newburgh, New York.

At the Drydock Savings Bank, 742 Lexington Avenue, account No. 203365 was opened in the year 1933 by Betty Buchalter, 1104 Elder Avenue, Bronx, New York, and was closed out as of July 10, 1934. Betty Buchalter gave her address at that time as 25 Central Park West, New York City. The records of the bank also reflect that Betty Buchalter gave her husband's name as Louis Buchalter; occupation, salesman; father's name, Abe Arbeiter. On one of her deposit slips she gave an address as 115 West 86th Street, New York City. The account, as of July 5, 1934, records a deposit of a check in the amount of \$50.00 drawn on the Clifton National Bank, Clifton, N. J. by [REDACTED] b7C

At the Central Savings Bank, 74th Street and Broadway, New York City, account 109570 was opened on March 3, 1933 in the name of Sarah Arbeiter, 115 Central Park West, apartment 17J, New York City. Sarah Arbeiter stated at the time that

she was born in Poland May 12, 1888; name of parents Jakowitz; daughter Betty; that this account was closed out as of July 1, 1936 by Sarah Arbeiter, at which time she gave her address as 30 Mill Street, Newburgh, New York, and on the same day under account No. 164246 Sarah Arbeiter's husband Samuel opened up an account at the same bank in trust for her daughter, (Sarah's), Betty Arbeiter. In the last transaction in connection with this account Mrs. Sarah Arbeiter gave her address as 310 West 86th Street, New York City.

The premises 310 West 86th Street, is a 12 story apartment house, the agents for same being [REDACTED] New York City, and on contacting [REDACTED] of this concern, as to a tenant by the name of Arbeiter residing at 310 West 86th Street, he informed that the police authorities of the City of New York had made several inquiries of him during the past six months as to a family by the name of Arbeiter residing at the instant premises. [REDACTED] informed agent that his company had leased to one Abraham Arbeiter, retired, who formerly resided at 1469 55th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., (Wisconsin 6-8591), apartment 12B, at 310 West 86th Street, New York City, from June 1, 1937 to September 30, 1938 at the annual rental of \$1875, payable monthly; that apartment 12B is located on the 12th floor (two apartments on one floor), consists of seven rooms and three baths. Mr. Arbeiter, when renting the said apartment, gave his references as [REDACTED] Brooklyn, N. Y. and his bank as the National Safety Bank and Trust Company, 26th Street and 72nd Avenue, New York City. [REDACTED] claimed he was not personally acquainted with the Arbeiters, although on his contacting [REDACTED] of 310 West 86th Street, in whom he said he could place confidence, [REDACTED] advised that apartment 12B, in addition to being tenanted by Mr. and Mrs. Arbeiter, there also lived in the apartment one [REDACTED] who attended a local high school.

A check of the records at the [REDACTED] New York City, reflected that one [REDACTED] father's name Louis; that he entered the school on [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED] Brooklyn, N. Y.; born [REDACTED] In this connection it might also be stated that [REDACTED] Emanuel Buchalter, who is a brother of subject Buchalter, also attends this school, having entered same as of September 10, 1934

from [REDACTED] Brooklyn, New York; born [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and presently in the [REDACTED]

With a view to determining whether the Arbeiter or Buchalter families, residing at 310 West 86th Street, New York City, had a telephone in their apartment, 12B, the New York address-telephone directory listed a non-published telephone for Abraham Arbeiter, and on further check with the New York Telephone Company, it was ascertained that the telephone number issued to subscriber Abraham Arbeiter was Endicott 2-0799.

An informant has been established who has promised to furnish information as to the habits of the Arbeiter and Buchalter families.

On the night of November 15, 1937, [REDACTED] of the Bureau called Special Agent [REDACTED] and advised that he desired an immediate, discreet investigation to be undertaken to determine whether any telephone taps were on the relatives listed on the Identification Order No. 1462 issued for Jacob Shapiro. He stated that the Dewey investigators should not be contacted for this purpose.

Special Agent [REDACTED] made a discreet, careful check of the telephone wires emanating from [REDACTED] Brooklyn, N. Y., the home of [REDACTED] and ascertained that some distance from the home in the terminal box there was a tap on her telephone.

Agent [REDACTED] did not follow the tap to the hideout, fearing that same might cause the disclosure of our seeking to establish whether there was a tap on the wire.

On November 16, 1937 [REDACTED] of the Bureau was advised of these facts, and also advised that in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Washington, D. C., October 27, 1937, on page 7, it was indicated that the Internal Revenue Agents were maintaining a wire on the phone of [REDACTED] Baltimore, Md. [REDACTED] advised that the Identification Order which is in the possession of this office should be held and not distributed until further instructions were received from the Bureau.

b7C  
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The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] b7C

It was determined that the telephone number mentioned in surveillance on the telephone connected with the apartment of BUCHALTER and his wife, BETTY, in the Hotel Pierre in 1933, namely Cortlandt 7-0027, was listed in the name of Murray L. Jacobs, Attorney, 165 Broadway, New York City.

A check of the building register at 165 Broadway indicated that Murray L. Jacobs had associated with him in his law practise an Irving A. Blum and a Sally G. Kuttner. The name mentioned in the surveillance, BONDISH, or any name similar, could not be found in the register at 165 Broadway.

At the Veterans Administration, 30th Street and 9th Avenue, New York City, Mr. James A. Clark, Chief Attorney, was interviewed, since it had been indicated that BETTY BUCHALTER, wife of Subject Buchalter, was the widow of a war veteran and had had some correspondence with the Veterans Administration in reference to her deceased husband. It was determined from the file of Jack Wasserman, XC 729580, that Mrs. Betty Wasserman Buchalter, the widow of Jack Wasserman and present wife of Subject Buchalter, [REDACTED] b7C and had received \$1470.30 from the Veterans Administration, which amount represented the adjusted compensation of the deceased veteran, which she was holding in trust for her minor son.

The file covering the deceased veteran, Jack Wasserman, was reviewed in the office of Mr. Clark and it was determined that [REDACTED] was at the present time attending the [REDACTED] that his mother, Mrs. Betty Wasserman Buchalter, had been appointed his guardian on October 30, 1928. For any records covering this guardianship Mr. Clark suggested that Mr. Charles Schleman of the Surrogate Court in Queens County would be the proper person to contact. The attorneys who drew up the papers covering this guardianship were Fisher & Deimel of 551 Fifth Avenue, New York City. The file in the Veterans Administration further reflected that [REDACTED] b7C [REDACTED] adopted by Louis Buchalter in the Surrogate Court of

New York County in 1934 and that an investigation covering this adoption was conducted by FRANK P. RENNERT on December 7, 1934. The file also contained a letter from Mrs. Ethel Wakefield of the American Red Cross dated March 27, 1937. This letter indicated that Mrs. Buchalter was living at 25 Central Park West and that an investigation had been conducted by the Red Cross at the suggestion of the Veterans Administration. Mr. Clark explained that this investigation was conducted by the Red Cross to determine whether the minor child was receiving the full benefits of the money deposited by his guardian in trust for him. The file further reflected that Mrs. Buchalter was under a \$4000. bond covering her guardianship, this bond being held by the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, 16 Court Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

At the American Red Cross, 315 Lexington Avenue, New York City, Mrs. Ethel Wakefield, in charge of the home service, was interviewed and she allowed the reporting agent to review the file covering the investigations conducted by the American Red Cross in reference to Mrs. Betty Wasserman Buchalter. This file indicated that several attempts were made to interview Mrs. Buchalter without success but that sometime in March, 1937, Mrs. Buchalter was interviewed by the Red Cross at her apartment at 25 Central Park West. This interview indicated that the minor son was obtaining all the benefits from the money deposited in trust for him. At the time of the interview Mrs. Buchalter had made a request of the Red Cross in reference to an insurance policy held by the New York Life Insurance Company on the life of her deceased husband and the Red Cross had agreed to make further investigations concerning this policy but since that time the Red Cross has been unable to contact Mrs. Buchalter, a letter addressed to her on October 11, 1937 at 25 Central Park West having been returned to the Red Cross marked, "Addressee moved, no forwarding address".

Both Mr. James A. Clark of the Veterans Administration and Mrs. Ethel Wakefield of the American Red Cross stated that the files in their offices concerning this matter would be open for review any time by Agents of this Bureau.

At the Surrogate Court of New York County, [REDACTED] 1934 covering the adoption of [REDACTED] by Subject ] b7c



Buchalter was reviewed. This file indicates that [REDACTED]

that his father, Jack Wasserman died September 30, 1928 and that his mother, Betty Wasserman married Subject Louis Buchalter on August 20, 1931. In the petition of adoption Subject Buchalter sets forth his occupation as General Manager of the Perfection Coat Front Manufacturing Company, 11 West 19th Street, New York City and also the General Manager of the Garfield Express Co., Inc., 272 Oak Street, Passaic, N. J. and sets forth his income as \$20,000. per year. It is further set forth that the minor [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This policy was written on the life of Jack Wasserman, his father, and indicates that the [REDACTED]

b7C [REDACTED] The adoption was granted by the Surrogate Court on [REDACTED] and an investigation of the fitness of Subject Buchalter to support the minor child was made by Frank P. Rennert of the Surrogate Court of New York County and the adoption was allowed by James A. Foley, Surrogate.

Mr. FRANK P. RENNERT was interviewed and he stated that the investigations as conducted by him were reported to the Surrogate in writing but that these files were not open for review but were sealed in the surrogate's office. However, he stated that in cases such as this where the person marrying the mother of the minor is involved, a through investigation is not conducted since the person adopting the minor child would have custody of the child in any event since he was marrying the minor's mother and that unless it was definitely established that this person was unable to support the minor child, very little investigation was conducted.

At the Marriage License Bureau of the City of New York, Borough of Manhattan, in volume 8, #18824, it was determined that LOUIS BUCHALTER married BETTY WASSERMAN on August 20, 1931. The information contained in the marriage license was as follows:

NAME  
Residence

LOUIS BUCHALTER  
215 W. 86th Street, New York City

Occupation	Salesman
Birthplace	New York City
Father	Barnett, born in Russia
Mother	Rose Di Waltoff, born in Russia
Color	White
Age	34
First marriage	

NAME	LETTY WASSERMAN
Residence	255 W. 90th Street, New York City
Birthplace	London, England
Father	Abraham, born in England
Mother	Sarah Jacobs, born in Russia
Color	White
Age	29
Second marriage, widow since 1928	

This license is dated August 20, 1931 and the marriage was performed on the same date at the Municipal Building by MICHAEL J. CRUISE, City Clerk. The witnesses to this marriage were Morris Wolensky and Feveromo, 201 East 35th Street, New York City.

It should be noted that information from the Verne Miller file above mentioned is to the effect that "Dimples" Wolensky accompanied Buchalter to Germany in 1933 in the course of which tour Buchalter is reported to have visited the baths at Carlsbad.

At the office of the New York Life Insurance Company, 28th Street and Madison Avenue, New York City, [REDACTED] b7C of the Inspection Department, was interviewed and he stated that they had a policy on the life of Jack Wasserman which policy had been or was being paid and that this policy was at the present time in their store room but that he would obtain the files and make them available for review by reporting agent.

While the writer was at the Newark Bureau office on official business on a recent date Special Agent [REDACTED] of that office advised that an informant known to the Newark office told him that William Moretti who controls the numbers racket in Bergen County, N. J. is a close associate of Buchalter and Shapiro. This informant further advised that Moretti, Buchalter and other men in the numbers racket in New Jersey and New York have an agreement on the numbers racket at the present time and that this racket is operated through one large office which is located in Cliffside, N. J. The Informant said that he does not know the exact location of this office but he is positive it is located in Cliffside because he knows from a confidential source [REDACTED]

b7c

He further advised that Chief of Police Borelli of Cliffside, N. J. is aware of the headquarters existence and its operation in Bergen County.

b7D

With further reference to Moretti the Informant stated that Moretti has a non-published telephone number, Hasbrouck Heights 8-0710. He said that one Savarese who now works for Chief of Police Borelli, operates the Swing Club, a night club located in Cliffside, N. J. It is possible, according to the Informant, that Savarese might give some information concerning the activities of these individuals and also might be in a position to furnish information regarding the recent bank robberies if certain methods of persuasion were used upon him. The informant suggested that one of these ways might be to indicate to Savarese that it was known that an individual named Portuguese Joe was killed in Savarese's home, which was used by a mob of New Jersey and New York hoodlums at one time.

Moretti is also reported to have a telephone number Hackensack 2-1050. It is said that he recently purchased the United States Linen Supply Company, Inc., 19 Mill Street, Paterson, N. J., telephone number Armory 4-3367.

The descriptions of Buchalter and Shapiro will not be set forth in this report inasmuch as the most complete descriptions available at this time are set forth in the reward circulars being distributed by the various field divisions of the Bureau throughout the country, dated November 8, 1937.

It should be noted at this time that instructions from the Bureau to withhold the distribution of identification order #1462 covering Subject Shapiro are still in force.

It should be made known to all possible informants that a \$5000. reward has been offered by the Attorney General of the United States, \$2,500. to be paid for information furnished to the Bureau resulting in the apprehension of Shapiro and the same amount to be paid for information furnished to the Bureau resulting in the apprehension of Buchalter. Arrangements may be made, if necessary, whereby any Informant furnishing the desired information may be the recipient of the reward without his identity being disclosed, as will probably be desired in a case of this kind.

A mail cover has already been requested for the mail of C. H. KAUFER, half-brother of Buchalter, residing in Denver, Col. Mail covers are also being requested on the mail addressed to the Buchalter and Arbeiter families residing at 310 W. 86th Street, New York City; the family of Dr. Emanuel Buchalter, 110 W. 86th Street, New York City, 57 W. 57th Street, New York City and 324 Roebling Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Isadore Buchalter, 947 Montgomery Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. and 4239 Broadway, New York City; Mrs. Rose Buchalter and Mrs. Sarah Moss, 2130 Broadway, New York City (Beacon Hotel) and Mrs. Maxwell J. Morse, 161 W. 75th Street, New York City.

Requests for the records of long distance telephone and toll calls from the telephones connected with residences of the above mentioned individuals, which numbers are listed in this report, as well as long distance calls made to such numbers, are also being made covering the last sixty days.

An anonymous communication to the Bureau postmarked New York City, N. Y. a copy of which communication was forwarded to the New York office, contained information to the effect that Abe and Dave Fishman of the Bluedale Dress Co., 253 W. 35th Street, New York City, are reportedly cousins of Buchalter and prosper under his protective strong arm activities and may have some information as to his whereabouts. Investigation will be conducted to determine whether this report has any basis in fact.

The Bureau has directed that investigation in this case be given expeditious attention and therefore it is requested that undeveloped leads be covered as soon as possible.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE at Valiant, Okla. will conduct discreet investigation relative to Mr. and Mrs. SAM FINKLE mentioned in the body of this report as possible relatives of BETTY BUCHALTER, for any information which might lead to the location of either Buchalter or Shapiro. It is suggested that after this discreet inquiry is made a mail cover be placed upon the mail of the Finkel family.

THE NEWARK OFFICE at 272 Oak Street, Passaic, N. J., the Garfield Express Co., Inc., will conduct discreet inquiry relative to the owner and the operation of the Garfield Express Co., Inc. at that address to establish the identity of additional contacts which might lead to the location of Subjects.

At the Clifton National Bank, Clifton, N. J., will establish the identity of one Israel Kleinman who drew a check on said bank in July, 1934 in favor of [REDACTED] b7C  
[REDACTED] Subject Buchalter.

Will also conduct investigation based upon information received from Special [REDACTED] of the Newark office, looking b7C  
to the location of Subjects.

THE BUFFALO OFFICE at Albany, N. Y. will cause a search to be made of the records of the New York State Boards of Pharmacy and Dentistry in order to obtain all information available from the applications of Dr. Emanuel Buchalter, Dentist, and Isidore Buchalter, Pharmacist, pertaining to the family history of Buchalter. It is possible that Emanuel Buchalter may be registered under the name of Edward Buchalter and Isidore Buchalter may be registered under the name of Irving Buchalter, although it has been observed that the name Isidore Buchalter appears upon the latter's license at the Harvard Drug Company.

60-302

THE DENVER OFFICE at Denver, Col. will supervise and continue the mail cover on C. H. Kauver, half-brother of Buchalter, who is a Rabbi at 1316 Gilpin Street, office 1580 Gaylord Street. It has been reported earlier that C. H. Kauver has evinced the most cooperative attitude toward the Bureau of any member of the family. It is suggested that Dr. Kauver again be interviewed for the purpose of ascertaining the identity of not only members of the immediate family but also relatives-in-law and their location, if possible.

THE NEW YORK OFFICE will conduct investigation based on all available information looking to the location and apprehension of Buchalter and Shapiro.

- PENDING -

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501-3222X**

JEL:TD

July 5, 1939

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: FURDRESS - Outline of  
Developments of In-  
vestigation looking to  
the location of  
LOUIS BUCHALTER

60-1501-3222X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 21 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
K. J. TOLSON
W. J. C. W. C.

PROSECUTIVE ACTION AS TO LOUIS BUCHALTER

Louis "Lepke" Buchalter was sentenced to serve two years and fined \$10,000 on November 12, 1936, at New York City, for the violation of the Federal Antitrust Laws in connection with his activities in the Protective Fur Dressers Corporation, but he appealed the conviction and it was reversed by the Circuit Court of Appeals. Buchalter is at this time under indictment for the violation of the Federal Antitrust Laws in regard to his activities in the Fur Dressers Factor Corporation. Buchalter failed to appear in the Federal Court in the Southern District of New York on July 6, 1937, forfeiting a \$3,000 bail and he has been a fugitive since that date.

PROSECUTIVE ACTION AS TO JACOB SHAPIRO

Jacob "Gurrah" Shapiro was also sentenced to serve two years and to pay a fine of \$10,000 on November 12, 1936, for the violation of the Federal Antitrust Laws in the Southern District of New York in connection with his activities in the Protective Fur Dressers Corporation. Shapiro was released on December 3, 1936, pending appeal and became a fugitive on June 14, 1937, when this sentence was affirmed by the Circuit Court of Appeals and he failed to surrender. On April 14, 1938, Shapiro surrendered at the Federal House of Detention, New York City, and shortly thereafter commenced the serving of the two year sentence imposed,

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

*Copy filed*  
*Shapiro*  
*1939*



Extraordinary Grand Jury of New York County against Jacob Shapiro and Louis Buchalter, charging them, with others, in eleven counts with extortion in the Baking Industry of New York City during the years 1934 and 1935, by means of which, it is alleged, they obtained tribute of \$1,000,000.

#### REWARDS

On August 20, 1937, the New York City Board of Estimate Apportionment offered \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Louis Buchalter.

On November 8, 1937, the then Attorney General of the United States offered \$2,500 for information furnished the Federal Bureau of Investigation resulting in the apprehension of Louis Buchalter. This offer of reward expired on November 1, 1938, and has not been renewed to date. However, on March 31, 1939, a bulletin was dispatched to all Special Agents in Charge of the Bureau field offices, pointing out that because of circumstances and conditions prevailing, this offer of reward was not being publicly renewed, but for their confidential information, the Bureau would remunerate anyone up to \$5,000 for information furnished exclusively to us which resulted in the apprehension of Louis Buchalter.

#### BUCHALTER - PERSONAL BACKGROUND DATA

Our investigation has disclosed that Louis Buchalter has operated in New York City and vicinity and possesses a criminal record dating back to 1916. Starting as a minor hoodlum, Buchalter arose in prominence in the underworld until he was the boss racketeer of New York City, controlled his own organization of strong-arm men and gunmen, which was believed to number from two to five hundred, and collected millions of dollars from the legitimate businessmen of the city. Buchalter had a long list of acquaintances and a wide range of connections in the criminal underworld, and was spoken of as the New York contact for members of the Barker-Karpis gang, the

kidnapers of Edward George Bremer, and for Verne Miller and his associates. Miller, who was killed in a gangland feud, together with Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Adam Richetti, perpetrated the Kansas City Massacre. "Lepke" is also believed to have been interested in the operation of dog tracks and slot machines throughout the country. His main source of revenue, however, was the so-called rackets operated in New York City, which, under his management, threatened to become a permanent parasite on industry.

Louis Buchalter, alias "Lepke", was born in New York City on February 12, 1897. He is married and has one adopted son, eighteen years old. He was first arrested in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on February 29, 1916, and on a charge of theft received an indeterminate sentence in the State Reformatory at Cheshire, Connecticut. He was released on parole from that institution on July 1, 1917, absconded on July 23, 1917, and a warrant which was issued was never executed. On September 28, 1917, on a charge of grand larceny, he received a sentence of a year and a half which he served in Sing Sing Prison, Auburn Prison, and Great Meadow Prison, being discharged from the latter on January 27, 1919. He returned to Sing Sing on June 21, 1920, to serve a two and a half year sentence for attempted burglary, and was released on parole on March 16, 1922. From that date until November 21, 1933, when he was arrested for violation of the Antitrust Laws, Buchalter was arrested on eleven other occasions, for such offenses as assault, robbery, burglary, and homicide, but each time the charges were dismissed. His alias "Lepke" is apparently a corruption of the Jewish equivalent of the name "Louis".

The following are the aliases of Louis Buchalter, his description, et cetera:

Name	
	LOUIS BUCHALTER, with aliases;
	"Lepke"; Louis Buckhouse;
	Louis Buckhalter; Louis Kaver;
	Louis Cohen; Louis Buckalter;
	Louis Kauvar; Louis Buchholtz;
	Louis Lauvar; Louis Saffer;
	Louis Kauver; "Lepky"; "Lefky";
	"Sefky"; Murphy; "Schnozzle";
	Lou Brodsky; Judge Lewis; "Judge";
	"The Judge"; "Judge Louis";
	Judge Brodsky; Louis Brodsky.

Age	42 years (born February 12, 1897, at New York City)
Height	5'5½ - 5'7"
Weight	160 pounds
Build	Medium heavy
Hair	Dark brown, possibly graying at temples
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Dark
Teeth	Removable bridge consisting of five teeth, upper right - fixed bridge consisting of one tooth, lower right - fixed bridge consisting of one or two teeth, lower left;
Mustache	Occasionally
Nationality	American of Jewish extraction
Education	Grammar school
Scars	Appendectomy scar
PERSONAL	
Characteristics	Nose large, rather straight and blunt - ears prominent - eyes alert and shifty - has habit of passing change from one hand to another; is believed to be wearing a yellow gold ring on the small finger of his left hand. This ring is set with a large "cats-eye" stone described as being palish blue in color somewhat similar to a Star Sapphire. He is believed also to be wearing a very expensive and flashy yellow gold pocket watch set with emeralds and rubies. Attached to this watch is a yellow gold chain studded with similar stones. This watch is usually carried in one of his lower vest pockets and the chain extends diagonally from the watch pocket to one of his upper vest pockets. It is stated that he has a habit of looking at his watch every five

minutes or so and toying with the chain. It is indicated that he habitually wears snap brim felt hats directly in the center of his head so that the turned down brim will tend to offset the length of his nose. Marital status, married, one adopted son, [REDACTED] age about eighteen years.

b7C

Fingerprint	25	II	17
Classification	27	0	

FAMILY OF BUCHALTER

Rose Buchalter, mother, age 74, New York City

Emanuel Buchalter, D.D.S., brother, New York City

✓ Isadore Buchalter, brother, pharmacist, New York

✓ C. H. Kauvar, half brother, Ph.D., Rabbi, Denver, Colorado.

✓ Mrs. Maxwell Morse, half sister, New York City, husband in real estate business.

✓ Mrs. Sarah F. Moss, half sister, New York City, school teacher, president and manager of summer camp for girls.

✓ Philip Kauvar, half brother, New York City, an operator of City Carriers Corporation.

✓ Jack Buchalter, half brother, 359 Powers Avenue, Bronx, New York.

✓ Mrs. Aaron (Sophie) Biltchick, half sister, New York City.

✓ Mrs. Nathaniel (Sarah) Blum, half sister, 601 West 70th Street, New York City.

Mrs. Leah Buchalter Levy, half sister, 2733 Morris Avenue, Bronx, New York.

Beatrice, alias Betty Buchalter, wife, New York City.

b7c [REDACTED] stepson, with Betty Buchalter, known close associate, and amicable relationship existing.

#### BUSINESS INTERESTS

It is generally conceded that Buchalter is well supplied with money and, with that in mind, circularization was made of every bank in the country, at which time it was requested that it be determined if they were possessed of bank accounts or safe deposit boxes. This circularization was made during the early part of February of this year and to date no information has been obtained.

The income tax returns of Buchalter were obtained and are reported as follows:

##### 1934

\$10,400.00	Garfield Express, Incorporated, Passaic, New Jersey.
4,800.00	Pioneer Coat Front Company, New York City.
10,300.00	Perfection Coat Front Company, New York City.

##### 1935

\$9,800.00	Perfection Coat Front Company, New York City.
7,480.17	S. Wiener Joint Account.

##### 1936

\$5,300.00	Raleigh Manufacturers, Incorporated, Baltimore, Maryland.
10,400.00	Garfield Express, Incorporated, Passaic, New Jersey.
5,600.00	Dividends from Garfield Express, Incorporated, Passaic, New Jersey.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501-3275**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

This Case Originated At: NEW YORK CITY

L. A. File No. 60-122

Report Made At: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA	Date Made: 8/4/39	Period Covered: 7/20, 24, 25, 27, 28; 8/1-3/39.	Report Made By: [REDACTED] b7C hlx
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Title: PUR Dressing Investigation. LOUIS BUCHALTER, with aliases - FUGITIVE, I.O. #1468, ET AL.	Character of Case: ANTITRUST; HARBORING; CONSPIRACY TO HARBOR.
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Synopsis of Facts:

AARON SAPIRO, labor attorney, advised MRS. MAURICE ROSEMAN, nee GERTRUDE BLOOM, is a niece of BUCHALTER. Call from LONG at Hot Springs, Ark. In 1933 was probably to JEAN HARLOW. MOE DAVIS called BEN SIEGEL from Tucson, Ariz., in 1937. FRIEDA ZUCK denies any further knowledge of Subject BUCHALTER. "DOC" HARRIS was registered at Chapman Park Hotel, Los Angeles, July 11 to 15, 1938. MILTON "FARMER" PAGE, Los Angeles gambler, has seen SIEGEL, HARRIS, and SHOMBERG in his club. Captain WILLIAM CAHILL, retired Los Angeles officer, had no information of value. GEORGIE HERRICK apparently in New York. CHARLES "CHICKY" BERMAN, M. SEDWAY, and AL SPITZER were in Los Angeles from Aug. to Dec., 1938, at which time PHIL KOVOLICK was arrested at BERMAN'S apartment in Beverly Hills.

- P -

Reference:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at San Francisco, California, 5/3/39  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Little Rock, Arkansas, 4/13/39

COPIES DESTROYED  
885 FEB 4 1969

Approved and Forwarded:  [Signature] S.A.C.	Do Not Write In These Spaces		
	60-1501	3375	AUG 8 1939
Copies of This Report 1 - Bureau 1 - New York City 2 - Philadelphia 2 - Salt Lake City 1 - Washington Field 1 - Los Angeles	2 - St. Paul 1 - Newark - Inf. - Inf. AUG 7 - P.M. FUG. SUP TWO HARBO		

60-122  
FURDRESS

References (Continued):

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at El Paso,  
Texas, 12/12/38  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at New York  
City, 4/14/39  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Los Angeles,  
California, 6/7/39  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Salt Lake  
City, Utah, 10/8/38  
Letter from Bureau dated January 13, 1939 (60-1501)  
Letter from New York City dated 7/27/39  
Letter from New York City dated 5/16/39

b7C

Details: AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:

LEAD NO. 141

AARON L. SAPIRO organized the Molaska Company, of which company MOE DAVIS, of Cleveland, Ohio, was reported to have been the head. MOE DAVIS is allegedly a friend of BUCHALTER.

AARON L. SAPIRO is a nationally-known labor attorney, and his name has recently appeared in the papers on the West Coast because of his testimony for the Government at the deportation hearing of HARRY BRIDGES. He was interviewed at his office at 629 South Hill Street, telephone Michigan 4451, on July 24, 1939, and advised that before coming to the West Coast, he had had an office in New York City at 500 Fifth Avenue from 1927 to 1935 in that city, but that during that time he was also engaged in practice in Chicago, Illinois. During these years he stated he was nationally known as an expert in cooperative marketing and was well-versed in the agricultural needs. Some time in 1931 or 1932 he stated he was approached at his office in New York City by one JACK DREW and another man whose name he could not recall; that DREW was general manager of the Molaska Company of Cleveland, Ohio. DREW consulted SAPIRO with respect to his product which was a powdered form of molasses; and SAPIRO stated that he realized the tremendous field this product would have if it could be manufactured on a commercial basis. He stated that he had made a trip to Cleveland, Ohio, to visit their



small plant and had also interviewed DON WALLACE, of St. Paul, Minnesota, the editor of "The Farmer" and a brother to the Secretary of Agriculture, with a view to arranging the distribution of this product. In view of the fact that there would be a large market for this product in New York City, because of the dairy farms near New York, it was decided that another plant should be built in that vicinity, and a site was selected by SAPIRO near Elizabeth, New Jersey.

SAPIRO stated that at this time he met MOE DAVIS, who, either for himself or some friends, put some money into this company; however, the idea did not turn out to be successful and the company was disbanded. He stated that he only saw MOE DAVIS on two or three occasions, and that he knew nothing about his other connections except that he thought he was a gambler at Cleveland, Ohio. He was positive in his statement that BUCHALTER, to his knowledge, had no interest in this firm, which he said, was represented in Ohio by BART MCINTYRE, either a State Senator or Assemblyman from Cleveland.

However, SAPIRO admitted that he knew BUCHALTER. He stated that while he had his office in New York City from 1927 to 1935, he had employed as his secretary one GERTRUDE BLOOM, now MRS. MAURICE ROSEMAN, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On one occasion, he stated she introduced him to BUCHALTER, whom he had observed talking to MISS BLOOM in his office. After BUCHALTER left, MISS BLOOM advised him that he was her uncle, and admitted to him that BUCHALTER was "in the rackets" in New York City, and that the family did not have much to do with him. SAPIRO said that he could not remember what year this was, but he indicated that BUCHALTER had stopped in to see MISS BLOOM several times, and his only interest in seeing her was to inquire as to how she was and how other members of the family were. He also at times attempted to have her take some money from him, but SAPIRO stated MISS BLOOM always refused.

SAPIRO said that he has not seen BUCHALTER for years, and knows nothing of any other connections of his. He specifically requested that it never be made known to MISS BLOOM that he had ever mentioned her name.

He was shown the photographs usually displayed in this case and did not recognize BUCHALTER'S stand-up picture, stating that when he saw him BUCHALTER was always immaculately dressed and that there was never any semblance of a beard or whiskers on his face; however, he stated that the profile on the photograph which bears No. 46,043 does resemble BUCHALTER as he recalls him.

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FURDRESS

TRIPPETT was interviewed at his office and stated that he was separated from his wife in November, 1932, at which time he left their home and moved to the California Club. He was shown the photographs usually displayed in this case, and could recognize none of them, and stated that he could not imagine what connection a telephone call from an individual named LONG in Hot Springs could have with him. However, when it was mentioned that ZWILLMAN was known to be a friend of JEAN HARLOW, TRIPPETT advised that he and his wife had been very good friends of hers, and that he had secured JEAN HARLOW'S divorce from HAROLD ROSSON. He said that JEAN HARLOW had visited at his home very often, and particularly after he left his home, JEAN had stayed with his wife on several occasions. It would, therefore, appear that probably the call to TRIPPETT'S residence by LONG was for JEAN HARLOW; and it is recalled by the writer that the file in this case indicates that during the time LONG was in Hot Springs at the Arlington Hotel, he sent a telegram to MARINO BELLO, stepfather of JEAN HARLOW, saying that he would call their home.

LEAD NO. 134

MOE DAVIS, Cleveland gambler, believed known to BUCHALTER, while in Tucson, Arizona, on March 27, 1937, and April 6, 1937, called CRestview 11638, but on both occasions, talked to Woodbury 62074.

Through appropriate contacts it was ascertained that CRestview No. 11638 had formerly been assigned to MRS. E. SIEGEL, wife of BEN SIEGEL, and had been discontinued on December 15, 1936. Shortly after this time the number Woodbury 62074 was assigned to the SIEGEL residence. It is thus evident that MOE DAVIS called BEN SIEGEL on the above-mentioned dates.

LEAD NO. 125

FRIEDA ZUCK's sister, RHEA, married IMMANUEL BUCHALTER, brother of the Subject. She has previously been interviewed, but the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at New York City, April 14, 1939, requested that she be reinterviewed as she might have further information. b7c

FRIEDA ZUCK was found to be still employed at the 20th Century Fox Studios in the Script Department, where she can be reached on Extension 1118. She was interviewed on July 28, 1939, at the studio, and said that

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FURBERESS

she is presently living with friends at 1928 Santa Monica Boulevard, telephone OXford 5542, but would appreciate not being called at this address, as she intends to move in about a month and will advise this office of her new address.

MISS ZUCK stated that she could furnish no more information than she had given to Agents as previously set out in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Los Angeles, California, May 2, 1938, at which time she told all she knew. It appears that she did tell the truth in that interview, as her statements have been corroborated through other investigations in this case. b7C

MISS ZUCK stated that after having been interviewed before, she went back to New York because of the death of her mother and was there about six weeks, during which time, her time was fully taken up with her mother's affairs, and that she did not see BETTY BUCHALTER, who did not come to the funeral. She stated she, of course, saw IMMANUEL BUCHALTER, who is married to her sister, RHEA, but that no mention was made of the Subject. She said that she had then returned to Hollywood and resumed her employment at the studio, and has had no connection with anyone she met while BUCHALTER was here in Los Angeles in 1934. She also said that quite frequently she corresponds with her sister, with whom she is very close, but has not corresponded with BETTY BUCHALTER, although she admitted she is a good friend of hers.

She said that on May 26, 1939, she went back East for the unveiling of her mother, the expenses having been paid by her father, who wanted all of the family at home. She remained there until July, returning to California on July 13, 1939, and said that she had seen BETTY BUCHALTER on two or three occasions while in New York the last trip. She said that the only mention made of the Fugitive was when MISS ZUCK told BETTY that she had been questioned about Subject and BETTY told her not to worry; that "they" could do nothing to her, and to tell them the truth. She said that BETTY said she would like to know something about Subject, herself, as she has received no news of him since he disappeared. MISS ZUCK stated that she believed this was true as anyone who knew BETTY BUCHALTER before her husband became a fugitive could see the difference in her at this time. She indicated that she did not know where BETTY got her money on which to live, and said she would not ask her, assuming that she probably had money saved. MISS ZUCK further indicated that she did not try to pry into BETTY'S affairs as she considered it none of her business; and that she did not want to become involved in this case any more than she already is.

She was questioned about any relatives of BUCHALTER in this vicinity and said that she knew of none. She was questioned as to whether she knew GERTRUDE BLOOM, mentioned above, and stated that she did, but had

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FURDRESS

not seen her for ten or twelve years, and that GERTRUDE BLOOM was a niece of BUCHALTER'S through one of BUCHALTER'S father's previous marriages. She added that BUCHALTER'S father had been married three times, and that the family tree was all mixed up. An effort was made to have her go into the family tree of the BUCHALTERS, but she stated that she could not because, after all, her relationship was simply through her sister's marriage, and the few relatives she did know were only those she had met at her sister's house and many of these she had not seen for years. She reiterated that she would, through some source, advise this office if she received any information concerning Subject, but that if her relatives ever found out, she could never forgive herself.

LEAD NO. 93

The report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Salt Lake City, Utah, dated October 8, 1938, reflects telephone calls made by PHIL REGAN and by a MR. FROST, probably FRANK FOSTER, from Reno, Nevada, to Los Angeles. b7C

Sterling 2160, Pasadena, California, which was called, is the residence telephone number of PHIL REGAN, mentioned in this case as a friend of SIEGEL'S and "DOC" HARRIS, said number now having been changed to SYcamore 7-2160.

On July 5, 1938, MRS. REGAN called 7331, exchange not given, to BENJAMIN LEVEN, New York Life Insurance Company, Hollywood. It was ascertained that Hollywood 7331 is the number of the New York Life Insurance Company.

The records of the Retail Merchants Credit Association show that BENJAMIN LEVEN has been employed by the above firm for six or seven years as a salesman having previously been in the Advertising Department of a Boston, Massachusetts, Sunday newspaper, and also for the HEARST papers in San Francisco, California; and had been a member of an advertising firm in New York City in 1923. The file indicates that he was the leading insurance writer for the country in 1936; and that in 1923 in San Francisco, California, he went through bankruptcy, listing \$123,873.00 in debts and assets of \$250.00. The confidential section of this report indicates that he was formerly the president of the Morosco Holding Company in New York City, and in 1925 was reputed to have been under Federal indictment for using the mails to defraud in connection with the above firm, wherein promotions resulted in a loss of \$2,500,000.00 to the stockholders.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501-4266**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**

I.C.#60-1501

THE FURDRESS CASE

JACOB SHAPIRO, with aliases;  
LOUIS BUCHALTER, with aliases.

Jacob "Gurrah" Shapiro surrendered to Federal authorities on April 14, 1938, in New York, after being a fugitive from justice for less than a year. During that time every known associate and contact was investigated to determine if they were in communication with him. Relentlessly the forces of law and order were seeking to drive him out into the open. Shapiro stated the Federal Bureau of Investigation was hunting him wherever he went and under the circumstances it was like being in jail, thus he surrendered.

His associate of many years, Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, was going to see how he made out, Shapiro related to Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, before he decided to surrender. Sixteen months later Buchalter followed suit, bringing to a close a manhunt that encircled the continental United States and extended into Mexico, Costa Rica, Cuba, England, Canada, France, Puerto Rico and Carlsbad, Germany. Summary reports alone succinctly setting forth contacts of Shapiro and Buchalter, number over a thousand pages, to say nothing of the thousands of reports of Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation working in every section of the United States.

Over a period of years the activities of this gang have been the subject of headline after headline in the Metropolitan dailies, announcing some new depredation. Industrial racketeers, never hesitant to enforce their mandates with lead pipes, stench bombs, brickbats and bullets, Shapiro and Buchalter headed a modern gang of desperadoes whose brutality and vandalism equalled that of the Huns of old. Millions of dollars were exacted as tribute by the paid enforcers of Shapiro and Buchalter. Both had a flair for organization, combined with considerable business acumen, rivalling that of big business and industrial executives. Their underworld empire extended from coast to coast. Old associates still occupy pinnacles of authority in various sections of the country, while others hiding behind the garb of pseudo-respectability nurture their egos with their ill-gotten gains.

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FEB 5 1969

60-1501-4266

Personal History and Background of  
Louis "Lepke" Buchalter

Louis Buchalter was born in New York City on February 6, 1897, the son of Barnett Buchalter, who emigrated to America from Russia and operated a hardware shop in the neighborhood of Essex Street, on the lower East Side of New York City. His mother, Rose Buchalter, who is well over seventy years of age, is presently residing with her daughter. As a result of her first marriage Buchalter's mother had four children. Buchalter's father had previously been twice married, having four children, also. Buchalter has two full brothers.

In his youth Buchalter attended public school #75 through the sixth grade and then attended public school #62. While attending the latter he assisted his father in the operation of his hardware store, until his death in 1909. Following his father's death, the family moved to Brooklyn, New York, where they were supported largely by Buchalter's half-sister. While residing in Brooklyn, Buchalter attended public school at 54th Street and Sixth Avenue, completing his grade school course in 1910.

He was first employed after leaving school, as a salesman for a concern engaged in selling theatrical goods, such as spangles, tights and costumes and also handling imported Austrian chandeliers, which were then in fashion.

Among Buchalter's brothers were a dentist and a rabbi.

Buchalter was first arrested on September 2, 1915, on a charge of burglary. He was released by the Grand Jury, after being held eighteen days. He was next arrested January 12, 1916, on a charge of burglary, being released two days later. His first real brush with law enforcement occurred on February 29, 1916, when he was arrested under the alias of Louis Kauver, at Bridgeport, Connecticut, on a charge of theft. Buchalter in discussing this particular charge stated he was accused, together with individuals whose names he did not wish to disclose, of the theft of a salesman's hand grip out of his automobile and following his conviction, he was sentenced to the Connecticut Reformatory at Cheshire, Connecticut, which at that time was an unvalled institution. He was received at the Connecticut Reformatory on May 18, 1916, to serve his indeterminate sentence and was released on parole on July 12, 1917, although Buchalter claims he served less than two months before he was placed on parole. He absconded on July 23, 1917 and a parole violator warrant was issued but never executed and was later dismissed by the Board of Parole on December 9, 1931. The records reflect that Buchalter and his companions stole two suitcases containing samples of jewelry which were left by a salesman outside the doorway of a store, these samples being valued at about \$500.

At the time of his release he was furnished a job as an automobile painter and continued in this capacity for some time thereafter.

The report of the Medical Director of the Connecticut Reformatory is of interest and is as follows:

"HEREDITY: Excellent father and mother. Father died in 1910. Mother is refined. Well educated. 1 sister is a school teacher. 1 brother a Rabbi with a Ph.D. degree. 1 stepbrother a dentist. 2 uncles dentists. 1 uncle a druggist. Cousin specializing in psychology at Columbia at present.

Home: Lived with mother after father's death 3 years. Mother went to live in Colorado and inmate went to live with sister. Home conditions the best.

Physical: Normal

Mental: Normal

School: 8 grades in 10 years

Vocational: Steady. Stock clerk or in clothing stores owned by family.

Habits: Good

Delinquency: 2 previous arrests for burglary, discharged. Present arrest stole valise in Bridgeport because he was out of funds.

Inmate is a clean cut intelligent Hebrew, who led a normal life in spite of little supervision until August, 1916. Then worked for uncle who owns Orpheum at Savin Rock, who reduced his wages to \$8 a week. This he didn't like and went to New York, got in with a bad crowd doing petty jobs. His delinquency was probably result of mental conflict coupled with companions. Outlook is excellent.

Intelligence: Above average

Ability: Good



On April 28, 1917, Buchalter was arrested in New York City on a charge of grand larceny, second degree, and on January 11, 1918, was sentenced to serve one and one-half years at Sing Sing. He subsequently was transferred to the Auburn Prison and discharged on January 17, 1919. Buchalter refers to this arrest as "one for the possession of a package". On April 23, 1919, Buchalter was arrested for an attempted burglary in New York but was discharged two days later. On January 22, 1920 he was arrested on a charge of attempted burglary, third degree and was sentenced to two and one-half years at Sing Sing, where he was received on June 21, 1920. He was released on parole on March 16, 1922 and discharged from parole upon expiration of his sentence on December 19, 1922. Buchalter in discussing this offense claims he was intercepted, with Mike Weideman, deceased, and Willie Goldman, while entering a silk house on 22nd Street, New York City, where they were perpetrating a burglary. Buchalter contends that he "came out flat", meaning he was not placed on parole, although the records indicate he was paroled. On September 11, 1925, Buchalter was arrested on a charge of robbery but was discharged on December 12, 1925.

On October 19, 1925, Buchalter was arrested with Jacob Shapiro, in connection with the Fish Market stick-up. He related on this occasion he was in the vicinity of the bus service operated by Jacob Shapiro and Shapiro was laughing at his, Buchalter's, plight and the arresting officer informed Shapiro to go along, too. This was the first time Buchalter and Shapiro were arrested together and they were later released. In this connection it is pointed out that Buchalter always refers to Shapiro affectionately as "Charlie".

On October 25, 1927, Buchalter claims he and Shapiro voluntarily appeared for questioning in connection with the murder of Jacob "Little Augie" Orgen, whom they had known for several years. They were held for investigation and discharged on November 4, 1927. On July 17, 1929, Buchalter and Shapiro were arrested at the Harrester Restaurant, charged with burglary and malicious mischief, arising out of an alleged attack on a clothing store on Bleeker Street. This, Buchalter stated, was the first time that either he or Shapiro had been involved in any Union job. On November 11, 1931, Buchalter was arrested with Shapiro and several other individuals on a charge of consorting with known criminals. At this time, Buchalter pointed out, he was suffering from a peashot in his eye and was about to move from the apartment which he occupied at the Franconia Hotel, when arresting officers took him and other associates into custody. All were subsequently released. On July 12, 1933, Buchalter was again arrested on a 722 charge, which is known as Consorting with Known Criminals, together with "Trigger Mike" Coppola, in an apartment in Manhattan.

Buchalter and Shapiro associated together as young boys and after Buchalter finished school in Brooklyn he again began associating with Shapiro, on the lower East Side of Manhattan. On August 20, 1931, Buchalter married Betty Wasserman, who was born in England on October 12, 1904. Her father, Abraham Arbeiter, was born in England, while her mother, Sarah Jacobs, was born in Russia. The family emigrated from London in 1908. Both her parents were divorced and later each remarried. Betty attended local grade and high school in New York and in 1920 married Jacob Wasserman, a World War veteran, who died as the result of an appendix operation, December 30, 1928, in Oklahoma. From this marriage a son, [REDACTED] b7C  
[REDACTED] Following his marriage to Betty, Buchalter adopted [REDACTED] in 1934 and it is said "Lepke" has a very fond regard for [REDACTED]. At the time of Buchalter's marriage to Betty, Morris Wolensky alias "Dimples" and one P. Poveromo were the witnesses. Wolensky's activities will be described in further detail later on.

Prior to her marriage Betty Buchalter was employed as a night club hostess, by Ben Marden, who managed the Palais Royale and other night clubs, in New York. She was also employed as hostess at the Kentucky Club on West 47th Street, New York City, where she operated under the name Betty Wilson. She frequents night clubs considerably, keeps late hours, plays cards and the horses to a considerable extent. On February 19, 1933, Buchalter, under the alias Louis Saffer, along with Abner Zwillman and Ben Kutlow, registered at the Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, Arkansas, where they remained until March 6, 1933. Betty Buchalter subsequently joined them. While at the hotel the party lived rather extravagantly, spending approximately \$1,000 a week.

A trucking concern engaged in transporting cut work from clothing manufacturers to contractors complained that their trucks were being interfered with and that they encountered difficulties when trucking for certain manufacturers. A nephew of the owner of the concern reported the matter to the police and the nephew was told he would receive a telephone call. Soon the phone rang and the caller announced he was "Lepke". The nephew told him about his uncle's difficulties, whereupon "Lepke" announced he would see who was involved and would see that there would be no reoccurrence of the difficulties. From that time on the trucker encountered no interference.

In the Spring of 1933 both Buchalter and Shapiro invested \$20,000 in cash in the Perfection Coat Manufacturing Co., which has previously been referred to and thereafter Buchalter received a drawing account of \$200 a week for a year. On March 24, 1933, a machine gun battle between gangsters and two armed automobiles occurred at Broadway and 81st Street, in New York. The battle is said to have been carried on by rival gangs headed by Waxey Gordon on one side and Luciano and Buchalter on the other. As previously indicated, a rather extensive gang warfare grew out of a misunderstanding which occurred early in 1933 between various gangs headed by Waxey Gordon, Max Greenberg, Max Hassall and others, while Luciano, Buchalter and their henchmen were opposing these individuals, whom they regarded as interlopers.

Max Greenberg was formerly a St. Louis racketeer and Max Hassall was characterized as the Boer Baron of Reading, Pennsylvania. It will also be recalled that early in 1933 Zwillman became affiliated with Luciano, Buchalter and Shapiro and it was said Waxey Gordon imported out-of-town killers to carry on the war.

"Dutch" Schultz, as already indicated, figured quite prominently in the strife that existed in the underworld at the time. On June 2, 1933, Abe Lurst, a former chauffeur of Waxey Gordon, was found slain in a stolen car parked in the Morris Park section of the Bronx. On June 4, 1933, William "Big Bill" Oppenheim, one of Gordon's lieutenants, was shot and killed as he entered his apartment in Paterson, New Jersey. On June 12, 1933, Buchalter was arrested in New York City, charged with consorting with criminals and according to police records, was associated at this time with "Trigger Mike" Coppola. Again Buchalter was released.

In the meantime, Verne C. Miller, Samuel Schrager and "Bugs" Siegel were in Chicago in the Spring of 1933. Schrager was a close friend of Buchalter and Miller and it is said at one time Miller and Schrager were interested in gambling in Montreal, Canada. As has been already indicated, underworld rumors have pointed to the importation of Miller to the New York area to carry on some of the killing activities of members of the "Big Six" Combination. On June 17, 1933, the Kansas City massacre was perpetrated and on June 21, 1933, Verne Miller departed for New York from Chicago, instructing his paramour, Vivian Mathias, to follow him to New York and go to Buchalter's home, after she had left her daughter in Minnesota. These instructions were followed and Vivian Mathias was entertained royally by both Buchalter and his wife Betty. Buchalter was the individual who would put her in touch with Miller and arranged for her to meet him at various times. On July 30, 1933, Buchalter joined his wife Betty and Miller's paramour at the Sherwood Hotel, Burlington, Vermont. During the evening Miller's paramour, then known as Mrs. Allen, was heard to say she had just travelled some fifteen hundred miles and later Buchalter made some comment inquiring as to why someone did not surrender. During the period that Miller's paramour was in the East he made trips to Montreal with Betty Buchalter, where they visited numerous night clubs and did considerable sightseeing around the city.

In the meantime it was ascertained Samuel Schrager was wanted as a parole violator and investigation revealed he was originally released on parole from Clinton Prison, November 21, 1925. Subsequently he was returned to Sing Sing as a parole violator and re-paroled from that institution on October 1, 1929. He absconded from parole supervision and was declared delinquent, April 1, 1931. Schrager was reputed to be an important member of Buchalter's machine.

Little is known of Buchalter's activities during the remainder of the Summer of 1933, although it is known on August 31st, Buchalter called Dixie Davis, the attorney, and asked him to come to his hotel that night. On September 11, 1933, Buchalter applied for a passport, stating he intended to visit France and Czechoslovakia, for his health.

Buchalter at the time gave his address as the office of his brother, Dr. Emanuel Buchalter. Buchalter sailed on the S/S "Mauretania" on September 22, 1933, proceeding to Carlsbad for treatment of a kidney ailment. [REDACTED] b7D

[REDACTED] From London they proceeded by air from the Croyden Airport to LeBorguet, France.

Returning for the moment to Verne Miller, on October 23, 1933, it was ascertained that Al Silvers alias Al Silverman, a member of the Zwillman gang, purchased a Ford coupe in New York, which was abandoned by Miller in Chicago, following his getaway on November 2, 1933. Another racketeer associated with Buchalter procured an automobile driver's license for Miller. It developed that Al Silvers was one of the more important members of the Zwillman gang and the investigation reflected that on May 13, 1932, Silvers was picked up after he left a hotel and a gun was found in his car. He was acquitted, however, on a charge of carrying a gun inasmuch as physical possession was not proven. Silvers was charged in a complaint filed November 6, 1933, with conspiracy to conceal and harbor a Federal fugitive. However, on November 20, 1933, his body was found near Somers, Connecticut, draped over a barbed wire fence, after he had been stabbed seven times in the head, once over the heart and had been strangled with his own necktie and a clothesline which had been knotted about his neck. He was unclothed but covered by a bloody blanket. Buchalter advised Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on November 28, 1933, that he knew Silvers as a liquor operator; that he got along well with all the boys. Buchalter admitted he was in the State of Connecticut on the weekend of November nineteenth, at the home of some respectable people, where he participated in a weekend pinochle game.

At this point Buchalter was advised, in the presence of his attorney, that Verne C. Miller was a fugitive from justice and a warrant was outstanding for his arrest, whereupon Buchalter said, "No one will have anything to do with Miller now," and then added, "If Miller shows up in New York you'll know about it." On the following day, November 29, 1933, Verne Miller's lifeless body was found in a ditch in Cambridge and Harlow Streets, Detroit, about eleven miles from the center of the city. He had been tied very securely in a jackknife position with his legs drawn close to his body and his arms pulled securely to his sides. His body was wrapped in two apparently brand new blankets and an automobile robe of cheap material. All identification marks had been removed.

It may well be concluded that Buchalter was under obligation to Miller, who did many jobs for his gang in the early part of 1933, by way of exterminating members of the Waxey Gordon gang. It may also be observed that the vigorous investigation seeking the apprehension of Miller and Al Silvers was getting uncomfortably close to Buchalter and his organization. It will be recalled that on the afternoon of November 28th, Buchalter admitted that Sammy Schrager was out of the city and he expected him back in a few days.

Buchalter also related that sometime in 1932 Verne Miller came to New York City with Gus Winkler and at that time it was his understanding that Winkler and Miller had some sort of contract with a large whiskey distillery, whereby they were to receive a certain amount of money on each case of liquor they could run into this country and Winkler and Miller had attempted to line up some customers and Buchalter was instrumental in introducing them to certain bootleggers. At that time he knew Verne Miller's real identity. He also added that he had known Sammy Schrager all his life, having been brought up with him. He then went on to relate that early in 1933 he had gone to Los Angeles with Zwillman and Ben Kutlow. Later they went to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where Mike Coppola joined the party. A few days later, before they left Hot Springs, Miller and his paramour arrived there and remained at the hotel and he took care of their bill. He also stated he saw Frank Nash and his wife in Hot Springs, at the time and admitted attending a large dinner party at which Verne Miller and Frank Nash were present. While in Hot Springs he met a man named "Dutch" but was not certain whether this was "Dutch" Akers, Chief of Detectives at Hot Springs, who was subsequently convicted. The last time he saw Miller, he claimed, was in February or early in March, 1933, although it is of course known this is not true, since he saw him in the summer.

On November 6, 1933, Buchalter and Shapiro, as previously indicated, were indicted in the Protective Fur Dressers Corporation case and the Fur Dressers Factor Corporation case. It is believed that Buchalter was introduced to Verne Miller by Benjamin Kutlow, who resided in a penthouse on Central Park West, New York City, and who travelled around considerably with Buchalter and Zwillman. On November 22, 1933, Buchalter and Shapiro were arraigned on their indictments and released on bond. They were surrendered at this time by their attorney, J. Arthur Adler and again Buchalter gave the address of his brother, the dentist, as his residence.

On June 28, 1935, Buchalter, accompanied by his wife and son, sailed from New York. On August 1st or 2nd of that year newspaper stories appeared to the effect that Buchalter and Shapiro had left the country in order to escape the local investigation which was then in progress in New York County. On August 12, 1935, the case against the Protective Fur

Dressers Corporation was called and Attorney J. Arthur Adler appeared on behalf of Buchalter, advising he had gone to Europe for his wife's health. Shapiro appeared. On September 3, 1935, Buchalter returned to New York City, along with "Celia", who had accompanied them. It is also known that Mooney Levy, Joseph Stacher alias "Doc" Rosen and his paramour, Gloria Reynolds, accompanied Buchalter on his trip to Europe in 1935. Later Betty Buchalter stated her husband went to Carlsbad to take the necessary baths in connection with a course of treatments for stomach ailments, although as already indicated, his attorney had stated that Buchalter went to Europe for his wife's health.

From October 26, 1936 until November 12, 1936, Buchalter and Shapiro were on trial, which resulted in their conviction. On November 12th, Buchalter was incarcerated in the Federal House of Detention at New York City, along with Shapiro. Both were released on December 3, 1936, on \$10,000 bail, which was put up by Nathan Borish, by Federal Judge Martin T. Manton, who has since been convicted. It has been strongly rumored in this connection that Judge Manton had been approached, although these rumors have not been definitely established.

From the time that Buchalter became a fugitive, along with Shapiro, extensive investigation was conducted. It was believed after a lapse of a few months, that Buchalter was definitely in hiding and was not in open contact with his old associates. This opinion was later borne out following Buchalter's apprehension, when it was determined that he had maintained his fugitive status in Manhattan. Following the accidental killing of Isadore Penn, who resided in the same building with Philip Orslovsky, considerable pressure was brought to bear in New York City and innumerable statements appeared in the press to the effect that Buchalter was gradually seeking to exterminate all witnesses who could appear against him. It can now be revealed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, fearing this, had affidavits taken from some of the witnesses, in the presence of a Federal District Judge, and their statements recorded by sound movies. The New York authorities, issued a \$25,000 reward for Buchalter "dead or alive". The extensive investigation which had been launched by Special Agents of the FBI throughout the Nation began to bear fruit. As the old contacts of Buchalter and Shapiro were established and the details of their relationships ascertained, the time had arrived to take some action. A Federal Grand Jury in New York City was summoned. Subpoenas were served by FBI Agents on the big shot racketeers in various sections of the U. S., summoning them to appear before the Grand Jury. All of these individuals were definitely known to have been associated with Buchalter and Shapiro or to have been well acquainted with them. In the parlance of the underworld, "The heat was on." They faced the Grand Jury with the realization that the FBI Agents knew in detail their activities and were confronted with one of two possibilities, either telling the truth or refusing to answer questions. One of the individuals lamented his plight to a Special Agent, stating "If you fellows keep this up you are going to ruin the entire United States," meaning that once the operations

of these individuals were brought out into the open they could no longer successfully continue their nefarious activities which flourished in darkness. Up to this point they had depended upon corrupt political domination and alliances in their local communities for protection, and now they were facing a greater power than theirs, a power which the greedy local politicians could not move or suppress. At the beginning of the Grand Jury numerous efforts were made through various channels to persuade the FBI to lessen the pressure that was being brought to bear and when all of this failed, negotiations for the admission of defeat and the surrender of Buchalter were advanced.

The Federal Grand Jury which met at New York City in the Summer of 1939, studied in detail methods of operation of Buchalter and Shapiro. ~~(The books of the Raleigh Manufacturing Company were analyzed and the Grand Jury, after having considered the facts, immediately returned indictments charging various officials of the Raleigh Manufacturing Company with harboring Shapiro and Buchalter.)~~ In the meantime underworld associates who were being forced to appear before the Grand Jury became insistent in making overtures to representatives of the FBI, and following a Sunday evening broadcast by Mr. Walter Winchell, at which time Mr. Winchell was authorized by the Director of the FBI, to publicly state that Buchalter's civil rights would be respected and maintained should he surrender, a series of nerve-racking negotiations began. Telephone calls were received, asking carefully worded questions as to the outcome of the proceedings against Buchalter. After several days, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation issued an ultimatum that no further consideration would be given Buchalter unless he surrendered by 4 P. M., on August 24, 1939. Then came another phone call, instructing that the intermediary, Walter Winchell, "drive up to Proctor's Theatre in Yonkers". Before reaching the theatre a car loaded with strangers drew alongside the automobile driven by Walter Winchell. One of the men got out, holding a handkerchief over his face, and instructed Winchell to go to the drugstore on the corner of 19th Street and 8th Avenue; to enter one of the phone booths and about nine o'clock someone would come up to him and tell him where to notify the G-Men to meet him. Promptly at nine o'clock an individual approached and stated, "go back in there and tell Hoover to be at 28th Street on 5th Avenue between 10:10 and 10:20."

In accordance with the representations which had been made, the Director, unaccompanied, kept the rendezvous. At 10:17 the search ended when "Lepke", wearing dark glasses, disguised with a mustache, kept his word. Although a little excited, he seemed anxious to talk, to talk to someone new, after being in the shadows for over two years, probably with many other hunted men. He immediately threw away his glasses, stating, "I don't need them any more" and then added, "I would like to see my wife and kid, please". His wishes were acceded to. The man hunt which extended from coast to coast and across the seas, had come to an end, and with it, it is hoped, the terror that stalked through the East Side of Manhattan for years.

Buchalter had closely observed proceedings which were instituted against his associates of many years, Shapiro, who on June 17, 1938, was sentenced to serve three additional years and pay a \$15,000 fine in the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York, in connection with the indictment returned against him as a result of his activities in the Fur Dressers Factor Corporation case.

The physical description of Buchalter is as follows:



Name: Louis Buchalter, aliases:  
"Lepke"; Louis Buckhouse;  
Louis Buckhalter; Louis Kawer;  
Louis Cohen; Louis Buckalter;  
Louis Kauvar; Louis Buchholtz;  
Louis Lauvar; Louis Saffer; Louis  
Kauver; "Lepky"; "Lefky"; "Sefky";  
Murphy; "Schnozzle"; Lou Brodsky;  
Judge Lewis; "Judge"; "The Judge";  
"Judge Louie"; Judge Brodsky;  
Louis Brodsky.

Age: 42, born February 12, 1897, in  
New York City.

Height: 5' 5½ - 5' 7"

Weight: 160

Build: Medium heavy

Hair: Dark brown, possibly graying at  
temples

Eyes: Brown

Complexion: Dark

Teeth: Removable bridge of five teeth,  
upper right; fixed bridge of one  
tooth, lower right; fixed bridge  
of one or two teeth, lower left

Mustache: Wears one occasionally

Nationality: American - Jewish extraction

Education: Grammar school

Scars: Appendectomy scar

Personal characteristics: Nose large, rather straight and blunt;  
ears prominent; eyes alert and shifty;  
has habit of passing change from one  
hand to another; believed to wear  
yellow gold ring on small finger of  
left hand, set with large "cat's-  
eye" stone, palish blue in color,  
somewhat similar to a star sapphire;  
believed to wear very expensive  
flashy yellow gold pocket watch  
set with emeralds and rubies, having  
attached yellow gold chain studded  
with similar stones - usually carried  
in one of lower vest pockets and  
chain extends diagonally from watch  
pocket to one of upper vest pockets;  
said to have the habit of looking  
at his watch every five minutes or so  
and toying with the chain. Habitual-  
ly wears snap brim felt hat directly  
in center of his head so the turned  
down brim will tend to offset length  
of his nose.

(2)\* At Hattiesburg, Mississippi, will endeavor to locate LAM SWEETLIK through the I.C. Railroad Freight Dept, to determine whether any member of his crew is identical with fugitive BUCHALTER, as requested in report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Indianapolis, b7C Indiana, dated January 19, 1939.

NEW YORK OFFICE

Will complete the following New York City proper leads which have been previously set out in the report of Agent [REDACTED] New York City, dated October 11, 1938. The New York out-of-town leads, which have been previously set out in this reference report and not completed as yet, will be repeated later in this report under New York out-of-town leads: b7C

(1)\* Will keep in contact with the following superintendents of buildings, at which places various relatives of fugitive BUCHALTER reside:

- (a) 161 West 75th Street, Apartment 8B, which is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. W. J. LOUSE; Superintendent JOHN WILKINS has been contacted in the past concerning these persons.
- (b) 110 West 86th Street, Apartment 12A, which is occupied by Dr. EMANUEL BUCHALTER, brother of fugitive BUCHALTER. Superintendent CHARLES LOREMAN has been contacted in the past concerning this matter.
- (c) 324 Roebling Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., an office maintained by Dr. EMANUEL BUCHALTER, at which place WILLIAM SEBKO is the superintendent.
- (d) 175 West 93rd Street, where PHIL KAUWERT, the half-brother of BUCHALTER, resides. ROBERT E. SCHUBERT is the superintendent at this apartment.

(e) 375 West End Avenue, at which address BETTY BUCHALTER, the wife of fugitive LOUIS BUCHALTER, and [REDACTED] reside. FRITZ JOHNSON, the superintendent of this apartment building, has been contacted in the past relative to the BUCHALTER family. b7C

(f) Beacon Hotel, 75th Street and Broadway, at which address MRS. SARAH MOSS [REDACTED] and MRS. ROSE BUCHALTER, the half-sister, niece and mother respectively of fugitive BUCHALTER, reside. Mr. H. G. YURDIN, hotel manager, has been contacted previously. b7C

(2)\* Will establish confidential contacts at the following addresses occupied by relatives of fugitive BUCHALTER, so that the Bureau can be appropriately advised in the event BUCHALTER should make his appearance at these places or in the event any pertinent information of value is obtained concerning him:

(a) 218-220 East 165th Street, Bronx, N.Y.C., to which address Mr. and Mrs. ABRAHAM ARBEITER have recently moved.

(b) 57 West 57th Street, New York City, an office maintained by DR. EMANUEL BUCHALTER.

(c) 947 Montgomery Street, Brooklyn, Apartment 12F, which is occupied by ISIDORE BUCHALTER, fugitive's brother.

(d) Harvard Drug Company, 4239 Broadway, New York City, at which place ISIDORE BUCHALTER is employed.

(e) 260 West 35th Street, the address of the CITY CARRIERS CORPORATION, in which place PHILIP KAUFER is interested and employed.

(3)\* Will interview the following relatives of fugitive BUCHALTER, information concerning whom, as well as the results of previous interviews conducted with these persons, is reported in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York City, October 11, 1938: b7C

- (a) BETTY BUCHALTER, 375 West End Avenue.
- (b) DR. EMANUEL BUCHALTER, 110 West 86th Street, Apartment 12A. It is also deemed desirable to interview MRS. EMANUEL BUCHALTER. In conducting this interview with DR. BUCHALTER, will also question him along the lines suggested by the Bureau in Bureau letter dated January 10, 1939 relative to the insurance policy upon the life of his brother, the premiums of which are being paid by him, Dr. EMANUEL BUCHALTER, and also in connection with the matter of obtaining a dental chart of the teeth of his brother, fugitive LOUIS BUCHALTER.
- (c) PHIL KAUFER, 175 West 93rd Street, the half-brother of "LEPKE". His wife should also be interviewed.
- (d) ISIDORE BUCHALTER, full brother of "LEPKE", who resides at 947 Montgomery Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., Apartment 12F, and is employed at the HARVARD DRUG COMPANY, 4239 Broadway, New York City. His wife should also be interviewed.
- (e) JACK BUCHALTER, half-brother of fugitive, who resides at 359 Powers Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. MRS. JACK BUCHALTER should also be interviewed.
- (f) MRS. ANTON (SOPHIE) BILTCHICK, the half-sister of Fugitive BUCHALTER. It is deemed advisable also to interview MRS. BILTCHICK'S husband in connection with this matter.
- (g) MRS. NATHANIEL (SARAH) BLUM, 601 West 70th Street, Apartment 3C, who is the half-sister of fugitive BUCHALTER. MR. NATHANIEL BLUM should also be interviewed in this connection.
- (h) MRS. LEAH BUCHALTER LEVY, 2733 Morris Avenue, Bronx, N.Y., Apartment 3A, the half-sister of fugitive. MRS. LEVY'S husband should also be interviewed, his name being BENJAMIN, he being employed at the General Post Office.

(i) MRS. MAXWELL (MINNIE KAUFER) MORSE, Wells ton Apartments, 161 West 75th Street, who is the half-sister of fugitive BUCHALTER. MR. MAXWELL MORSE should also be interviewed.

(j) MRS. SAM FINKEL, the real mother of BETTY BUCHALTER, information concerning whom is reported in the above mentioned report of Agent [REDACTED]. In this respect it is reported on page five of the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York City, dated March 24, 1938 (N.Y. serial #1841) that BETTY BUCHALTER called SAM FINKEL of 1154 College Avenue, telephone Jerome 7-5311. It is thought this may be the step-father of BETTY BUCHALTER. It has been ascertained that MRS. FINKEL now resides at Newburgh, N.Y., where her husband operates a junk yard. } b7c

(4)\* Will interview FRIEDA ZUCK, who is presently residing with her mother at 307 Sterling Avenue, Brooklyn, it being noted that she is the sister of MRS. EMANUEL BUCHALTER, with whom she has corresponded. FRIEDA ZUCK had been previously interviewed in California during 1934, this interview being reported on pages three and four of the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Los Angeles, California, dated May 2, 1938 (N.Y. serial #2220). b7c

(5)\* Will contact Mr. DANZIGER of the Bank of Yorktown, as to the bank accounts maintained by PHILIP KAUFER and the CITY CARRIERS CORPORATION, of which organization KAUFER is treasurer, it being noted in report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York City, dated January 25, 1938 (N.Y. serial #1000), that Mr. DANZIGER was named by KAUFER as a reference at the time he applied for rental of his apartment. b7c

(6)\* Will interview SIDNEY HILLEN, head of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, for information concerning BUCHALTER'S activities and his knowledge concerning the possible location of this fugitive. It has been reported from time to time that HILLEN was very close to BUCHALTER and SHAPIRO. In this connection, on pages

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501-4310**

# LEPKE

29368

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Acers	✓
Mr. Carson	✓
Mr. Hendon	✓
Mr. Mumford	✓
Mr. Starker	✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Burton Turkus concedes, now, that Lepke baffled him. He says he came to know, as one by one he sent members of Murder Inc. to the death house, that they were alike in at least one respect. He says, "They all had killers' eyes." He noticed this in Abe ("Kid Twist") Reles, the informer who admitted casually on the witness stand that he had destroyed 11 men with gun, knife and fire. He saw it in Allie Tannenbaum, the second informer, who had admitted personal part in six murders; in Seymour ("Blue Jaw") Magoon, who took part in as many before he became a state witness against the mob. The look was in "Happy" Maione's eyes, in "Dasher" Abbendando's, in Mendy Weiss's, in Louis Capone's, even in Sholem Bernstein's, and Bernstein is only a "stoolie," a self-labeled "rat," or gang squealer.

Killer eyes, Prosecutor Turkus came to know, are something you can dramatize for a jury. You point them out to jurors and pretty soon they see it. It is the unmistakable mark of the beast. Mr. Turkus proceeded happily on this theory and gloated inwardly as each new batch of Murder Inc. defendants came up for trial. He says, "I got the feeling that the theory was perfect, and it held up in every case—until I turned, one morning in the trial room, and looked into Lepke's eyes." The prosecutor was actually startled by what he saw. "It jarred me," he confides.

Lepke—who was born Louis Buchalter—has warm, soft brown eyes. They are inordinately large. "Like a deer's, or a fawn's," Mr. Turkus tells you, with something like awe. "They never hardened." The gazelle eyes made no sense to the prosecutor. They dispelled a theory, for Lepke was the boss killer. As head of Murder Inc., or the Combination as its own members called it, he had ordered the death of anywhere from 60 to 80 men. By all standards his eyes should have been like Jack Diamond's, Vincent Coll's, "Lucky" Luciano's, Al Capone's. Psychiatrists who have examined Lepke since Mr. Turkus sent him to the Sing Sing Prison death house have merely affirmed that Lepke is different from all these.

They found no mental twist, nothing psychotic in his make-up. He seemed always affable under examination, his mind crystal clear. They were a little puzzled, as Mr. Turkus had been, by Lepke's curious blandness, his seeming humility. "The man is actually diffident," one psychiatrist noted in bewilderment. If there were any deviations from normal in Lepke, they were not apparent and exhaustive interviews, fitted with the cleverest oral bait, failed to bring them to the surface. There was one possible flaw, not too pronounced. Lepke seemed shy and embarrassed when the probers asked about his sex life. He was uneasy through this phase of examination. Incidentally, he has no children except an adopted son, offspring of his wife's first marriage.

If Sing Sing Prison's head keeper walks Lepke from his cell in the harshly lighted west wing death house to prepare him for the electric chair, Prosecutor Turkus will have achieved what no other American prosecutor can claim—the death penalty for top man in a murder mob. Jack ("Legs") Diamond, Arthur ("Dutch Schultz") Flegenheimer, Vannie Higgins, Vincent Coll, "Babyface" Nelson, Frankie Uale, John Dillinger and a dozen other mob bosses died with their boots on. Al Capone, "Waxy" Gordon and Lucky Luciano went to prison, but only on comparatively piddling charges.

Lepke, though, has been brought to book as a boss murder man should be—for murder. This seems strange, in a way. The little man with the deer's eyes outclassed all the others in sheer criminal genius. The others were comparative dolts when it came to mob organization. They rose to power by force. He combined brains with force. Yet with all these things, they frustrated the law and he did not.

## Lepke, specialized in union rackets

Lepke controlled more industries and had a firmer grip on more labor organizations than any other racketeer of our time. Federal and municipal investigators figure he manipulated, all told, some 250 criminal ventures. He kept an eye on at least 300 straw bosses, a corps of accountants and bookkeepers and on a staff of irresponsible triggermen, strongarms and trial saboteurs. He disliked reckless shootings, stabbings and other

LIFE MA

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File

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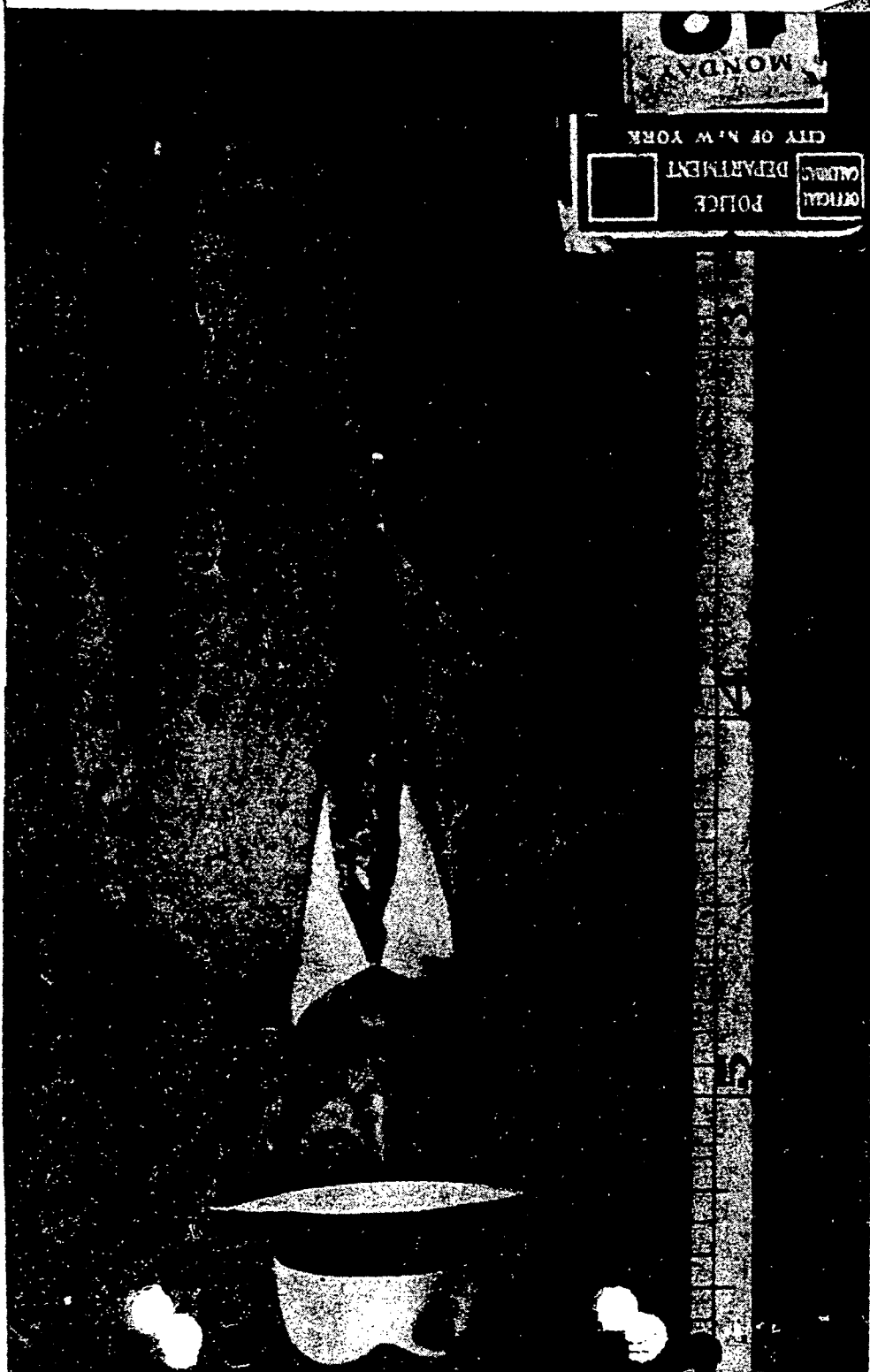
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Sect. 102



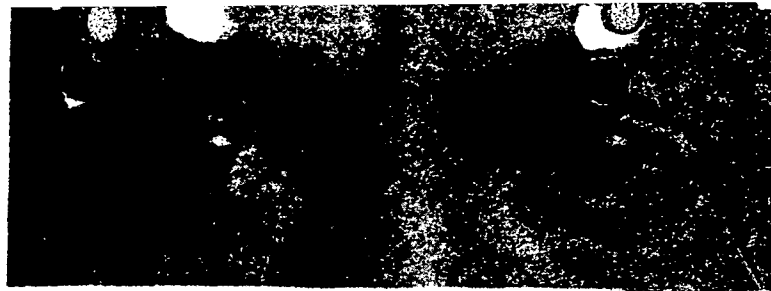
The house on the little island (*right center*) belongs to President Avila Camacho's brother Maximino. Beyond the bright green hill studded with pink and white villas lies another beach, called the Afternoon Beach. A third and most exclusive beach is on a small island off the picture to right. It is reached by the launches at the far end of this beach. There beautiful girls basking in the noorday sun are occasionally surprised by a stray wild pig, by a friendly burro or an armadillo looking for insects.



15166

15166





Lepke's eyes are nothing at all like the characteristic hard and shifty "killer's eyes" of most trigger men. They are warm, brown and docile, seem to hold no fires of fury or hate or violence.



Lepke's codefendants, Louis Capone and Mendy Weiss, went to the Sing Sing death house more than two years ago for murder of Joe Rosen. They have been waiting there for Lepke ever since.



Lepke entered Sing Sing bareheaded on a cold January day following his surrender to New York State by the federal authorities. Unless appeals succeed, he goes to chair on March 2 at 11 p. m.



Alvin ("Kid Twist") Karpis, after turning state's witness to save his own skin, killed himself by jumping from a window of the Half Moon Hotel in Coney Island in 1931.

## LEPKE (continued)

old. Lepke is extremely fond of the boy and carries his photograph inside the back cover of his diamond-studded platinum watch. Mrs. Buchalter likes night clubs and gaiety, but her husband preferred quiet—a book or a magazine, an occasional game of golf, sometimes a bit of pinochle. He never drank to excess. He liked Miami and before the war occasionally went abroad.

All through the Prohibition era, when the blustery beer barons were whooping things up and getting their names in the public prints, Lepke kept building his rackets apace but shrank from the limelight. When he was brought in for the Little Augie murder he was booked as Louis Buckhaus and newspapers referred to him by that name for the next five or six years. Comparatively few, even in New York City, knew he was one of the so-called Big Five of New York's underworld. There was sinister magic in the name Lepke only among his shivering victims and among the disloyal in his cabinet. Lepke had figured out, soon after he put his pet theories into practice, that "Where there are no witnesses, there are no indictments." When investigations threatened he sent possible witnesses far out of the jurisdiction and supplied them with funds. If they came back they were "hit."

The police were aware of Lepke's dark power, but since he neither did his own killing nor took part in mayhem and slugging expeditions but merely delegated them to the proper departments in his organization, the detectives could never pin a charge against him. One day in June 1933 he and "Trigger Mike" Coppola were arrested in a handsome flat on the thirteenth floor of a rather snooty apartment house in East 68th Street. Detectives searching the place found closets crammed with expensive but conservative clothes, a rather elaborate collection of golf equipment but no weapons. There were no guns because Lepke has always been careful to move without one. The only charge the police could make against The Judge was vagrancy, but he had \$800 in cash in his pockets and the charge was thin. They turned him loose on court order.

## Dutch got hit by Bug and Piggy

Early in his major ventures, Lepke had established close business relationship with Lucky Luciano. They loaned gunmen to one another. When Lucky decided, for example, that Dutch Schultz was getting to be a nuisance, he borrowed some of Lepke's guns to liquidate Dutch. Charlie ("The Bug") Workman, Mendy Weiss and a man named Piggy did the job. Piggy, incidentally, went cold on the assignment at the last minute, but The Bug put a gun to him and Dutch and three of his aides died in an East Park Street tavern the night of Oct. 23, 1935 at 10:30 p. m. The Bug got The Dutchman, but Mendy Weiss claimed this hit. Lepke coldly warned both to stop quarreling about it. They did, right away.

Nothing bothered "Judge" Lepke until Governor Lehman appointed Thomas Dewey in 1935 to uproot New York City rackets and racketeers. This move gave Gurrat Jake and Lepke a belly laugh at first. "That boy scout," they said. "He'll get somewhere like a duck hitched to a post." Mr. Dewey set Lepke, Gurrat Jake and Lucky Luciano at the top of his list. He started digging scared and reluctant witnesses from among the hordes who were enslaved by Lepke in the industrial rackets. Lepke got nervous. Gurrat Jake was for Dewey's assassination, but Lepke knew what would happen even if it could be done. "We'll have the whole world around our ears," he prophesied gloomily. "That's no good."

In 1937, Lepke and Gurrat Jake were indicted in the Federal Court in Manhattan for violation of the antitrust laws in connection with their racketeering in the rabbit fur-dressing industry and for

## LEPKE (continued)

violation of the narcotics law. By this time, Lepke had scattered possible Dewey witnesses far and wide across the country and was maintaining them in their hide-outs. Lepke, Gurrah Jake and Max Silverman, their straw boss in the bakery racket, were also indicted for extortion. Lepke and Gurrah Jake fled, and from his hiding place Lepke ordered the destruction of key witnesses. Murder Inc. had seen a lot of men die, but not as fast as they did during this period. Supreme Court Justice Ferdinand Pecora, who had been designated to hear the cases, was horrified.

The underworld stood by Lepke for 21 months. One of the Italian gang leaders in Brooklyn hid him for a while in the Oriental Dance Hall in Coney Island. This hideout was uncomfortable. Kid Twist found a Brooklyn waterfront flat, run by a red-haired virago, and Lepke boarded there a while. He grew a full mustache and wore dark glasses. He still collected from many of his labor victims and still drew heavy earnings from the Raleigh Manufacturing Corp., a clothing firm with offices at 200 Fifth Avenue and a factory in Baltimore, which he controlled.

When the waterfront flat grew tiresome, Lepke moved to an apartment in a large house on Foster Avenue in the Flatbush district in Brooklyn. Here he was the "paralyzed husband" of a Mrs. Walker, who had a 19-year-old son. When anyone knocked at the door, Lepke would let his arms go limp and would assume a paralytic pose in his armchair by the fire-escape window. Here he received Kid Twist and his other agents, directed his multitudinous affairs, ordered the dispatch of men who might get to Mr. Dewey or to the federal authorities. The victims were stabbed with ice picks, shot and dropped into Catskill streams. One was throttled and burned in a Brooklyn lot. Lepke's own men were terrified. They watched each other warily.

### Trigger fingers sometimes slipped

Max Rubin, who had been a Lepke straw boss in the garment center, was shot in the neck one night on Gunhill Road in the Bronx after he had appeared before Mr. Dewey. The marksmanship was bad, and Rubin survived to be the most damaging witness against Lepke at trials later. In their zeal to fulfil Judge Louie's orders, the Lepke gunmen accidentally murdered Irving Penn, an innocent music publisher. They mistook him for Phil Orlovsky, a potential witness against Lepke. This added to public indignation. The city of New York put a \$25,000 reward on Lepke's head. The federal government previously had offered \$5,000.

Finally, word came to Brooklyn from J. Edgar Hoover's office that if Lepke was not turned over within 72 hours, a host of FBI men would be turned loose on the borough and a merciless campaign would be started against all the mobs, Lepke's as well as others'. One of the big Italian gang bosses knew that this meant business. He passed the word to Lepke and a plan for surrender was worked out. A little after 10 o'clock the night of Aug. 24, 1939 Lepke got out of an automobile on Fifth Avenue at 18th Street, still wearing the dark glasses and the mustache. He was somewhat heavier than when he had gone into hiding. Waiting for him in a sedan was the columnist, Walter Winchell, chosen intermediary in the surrender. Winchell spoke to a heavy-set man, wearing dark glasses like Lepke's, sitting deep in the tonneau.

He said, "Mr. Hoover, this is Lepke."

Lepke removed his own glasses, dashed them on the pavement.

"How do you do?" he said politely. "Glad to meet you. Let's go."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35



# LEPKE (continued)

On Jan. 2, 1940, Lepke was convicted in the Federal Court in Manhattan on the anti-trust law violations and was sentenced to 14 years in Leavenworth. A fortnight later in General Sessions Court in New York City he was convicted on 36 extortion counts and was sentenced to serve from 10 years to life in state's prison as a fourth felony offender. The federal authorities claimed prior right to his person and he was transported to Leavenworth. Gurrat Jake had surrendered to the federal authorities in the spring of 1938 and was serving time in the federal penitentiary in Wisconsin.

Meanwhile, though, William O'Dwyer, Brooklyn's district attorney, had taken office. He grabbed Reles, Tannenbaum, Magoon, Strauss, Maione, Abbondando, "Bugsy" Goldstein, Louis Capone, Vito Gurino, Mendy Weiss, "Duke" Maffetores—all gunmen in Lepke's employ. He appointed Turkus to break them, and Turkus did. Reles, Tannenbaum and Magoon told the full inside story of Lepke's murder organization. Their testimony sent Maione and Abbondando to the electric chair for the murder of George Rudnick, who had turned stoolie against the Lepke Combination. Later their testimony sent Bugsy Goldstein and Strauss to the chair for the murder and burning of "Puggy" Feinstein, another member of Murder Inc. who had weakened and endangered Boss Lepke.

The strain was too much for Kid Twist. He had pretended he had no remorse over sending his fellow men-at-arms to the death house. He had kept up his waggery—throwing wet toilet paper wads at detectives assigned to guard him in the Hotel Half Moon in Coney Island; escaping from them and calling them from a telephone in the lobby—but early on the morning of Nov. 12, 1941 he was found dead on the ground outside the hotel. He had gone out the window. This news got to Sing Sing Prison by criminal grapevine with incredible speed. Inmates who had known Kid Twist gloated at his death. Prosecutor Turkus heard that someone in the death house had remarked bitterly, "There's one canary who found out he could sing but couldn't fly." A canary, in underworld parlance, is any informer who "sings," or squeals, on his mates.

On Oct. 20, 1941 Prosecutor Turkus opened his case in Kings County Court in Brooklyn before Judge Franklin Taylor, against Louis Capone, Mendy Weiss and Louis Buchalter, charged with first degree murder. Nine defense lawyers opposed him. Lepke had been brought from Leavenworth for the trial. He was tanned from outdoor prison labor, his dark hair was thinned on top, but his face was

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



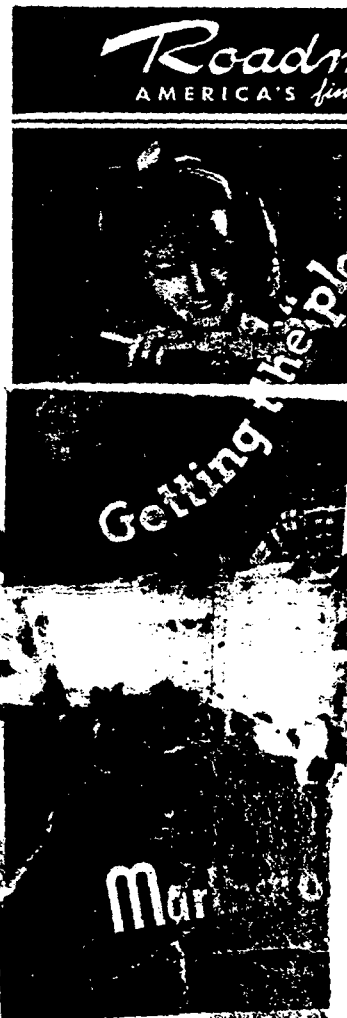
Lyn lot in 1939, badly charred. Strauss (above), had done a lot to identify the body. A prosecutor. His killers died in 1941.

29394

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LEPKE (continued)

late at night. Finally the car stopped at a curb somewhere around 150th Street.

"It was raining pitchforks, coming down in torrents," Rubin testified.

"When the car stopped," Mr. Turkus wanted to know, "did you see somebody?"

"Lepke."

Lepke was huddled under a dripping awning before a darkened store. Rubin walked over to him, aware of something sinister in the cold, unmoving form.

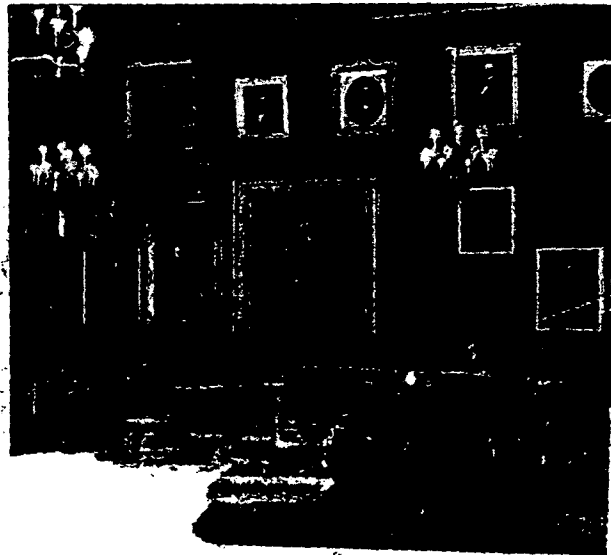
"Lepke wanted to know why I came back again. He asked me how old I was. I said I was 48. That was my age at that time. Lepke said, 'That's a ripe age.'"

Ripe enough, apparently. A few nights later one of Lepke's gunmen, trying to kill Rubin, put into his neck the slug that now causes Rubin to walk with his head on one side.

Allie Tannenbaum, skinny, slant-eyed, almost Japanese in facial contour, confirmed Rubin's testimony. He had heard Lepke say of Rosen, "There is one sonofabitch will never go downtown." Tannenbaum told how Mendy Weiss had boasted of the Rosen killing, had described how he murdered Rosen and how the sadistic "Pittsburgh Phil" Strauss took unnecessary pot shots at the body. Lepke, Tannenbaum told the jury, seemed unmoved when he heard this. His reaction was, "What's the difference as long as everyone is clean and got away all right?"

When Judge Taylor passed the death sentence, Lepke's soft brown eyes didn't change or harden. He heard the court solemnly pronounce that he, Weiss and Capone were to be delivered to Sing Sing there to suffer death by execution during the week of Jan. 4, 1942. He mopped at his tanned face with a soiled handkerchief but the blandness never altered. His tongue worked briefly inside one cheek and his fingers tensed, that was all.

Capone and Weiss were delivered to the east wing death house soon afterward. Lepke was taken back to Leavenworth Penitentiary, still a federal charge. A few weeks ago, though, Attorney General Biddle turned him over to New York State. He was driven to the prison under heavy guard. He was placed in the first cell to the right as you enter the west wing. He was docile then. He has been docile ever since—docile, with the same peculiar diffidence that so startled Prosecutor Turkus when he first became aware of it. Death-house keepers haven't been able to make him out. When other condemned men shout and call hoarsely to one another, Lepke is silent, still the extraordinary little man with the deer eyes who doesn't like to talk.



New York's capitol in Albany Feb. 2. Governor Dewey for Lepke, Weiss and Capone, whose execution he had his dispute with the federal government over Lepke's mandated that President Roosevelt commute Lepke's rendered to New York State. The U. S. Government out a guarantee that he would be executed. Some objection was afraid Lepke might earn clemency by Roosevelt-supporting labor leaders. On Jan. 21 Lepke was If he is not executed, the state must return him to the U. S. priority on Lepke dead; the U. S. Government on Lepke alive.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501-4327**

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, PORTLAND (62-0)

SUBJECT: LOUIS (LEPKE) BUCHALTER  
MISCELLANEOUS

DATE: 7/11/66

AUSA JACK G. COLLINS, Portland, Oregon, is trying an IRS case in about 30 days from date. The subject is a confidence man who has defrauded a number of people by claiming to know where LOUIS (LEPKE) BUCHALTER buried a large sum of money on the Oregon Coast.

LOUIS (LEPKE) BUCHALTER was a member of "Murder Incorporated" in New York who was prosecuted and convicted by then District Attorney THOMAS E. DEWEY during the 1930s. AUSA COLLINS suspects that his subject knows nothing about BUCHALTER except what he has read in crime magazines. COLLINS thinks it would be helpful if he could have considerable background information concerning BUCHALTER to use in cross examining his subject.

## REQUEST OF BUREAU

If it can be done without too much work, recommend that a summary of background information concerning BUCHALTER be furnished to Portland for delivery to AUSA COLLINS, who is Chief Assistant USA here and very helpful to us.

2-Bureau (AM)  
1-Portland

(3)

REC-87

60-1501-4327

16 JUL 13 1966

ST-105



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Sec. 102

EXP. PROC.  
JUL 13 1966

MAILED

JUL 22 1966

NAME CHECK

SAC, Portland (62-0)

July 21, 1966

ST-103-87  
Director, FBI

60-1501-4327

LOUIS (LEPKE) BUCHALTER  
MISCELLANEOUS

Reurlet 7/11/66.

Subject was a prominent member of Murder Incorporated during his lifetime and received voluminous publicity.

Any information in Bureau files concerning him which could be released has previously undoubtedly appeared in the public press and would be available to the subject being prosecuted.

In an effort to be of some assistance to AUSA Collins, there are enclosed two copies of a brief summary concerning Buchalter, a copy of which may be given to Mr. Collins. He should be advised that the FBI should not be revealed as the source of this information.

It is noted relet did not set forth the name of the subject of the Internal Revenue Service prosecution. It is possible Bufiles may contain pertinent information concerning him which would be of assistance to Mr. Collins. In the event Mr. Collins desires a review of Bufiles, concerning the subject of prosecution, advise the Bureau, attention, Name Check Section, giving complete identifying data concerning him.

Enclosures (2)

ENCLOSURE

NOTE: SAC, Portland advised that Chief AUSA Collins who has been very helpful to the Portland Office, will be trying an Internal Revenue case in approximately 30 days. His subject (unidentified) is a confidence man who has defrauded a number of people by claiming to know where Louis (Lepke) Buchalter buried a large sum of money in Oregon. AUSA Collins believes subject's knowledge of Buchalter is limited to what he has read in crime magazines and desired background information concerning

70 AUG 1 1966  
Note continued on Page 2.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Wick \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
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Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Sect. 103



Louis (Lepke) Buchalter

Buchalter to use in cross examining his subject.

b7C  
Enclosure is a blank memorandum giving background and brief summary of the criminal career of Buchalter, who was a member of "Murder Incorporated" who died in the electric chair in March, 1944. This memorandum was originally prepared in 1955 for former [REDACTED] and was one of several memoranda prepared on well-known criminals. It is believed the enclosure should be furnished to AUSA Collins for his assistance as recommended by SAC, Portland.

62-99379-11

July 19, 1966

MEMORANDUM

RE: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER, with aliases

BACKGROUND:

Louis "Lepke" Buchalter was born in New York City on February 6, 1897, the son of Barnett Buchalter, who had come to America from Russia and operated a hardware shop on the lower East Side of New York City. His mother was refined and well educated, and one sister was a school teacher. His brothers included a dentist and a rabbi. In his youth, Buchalter attended the public schools and assisted his father in the operation of the hardware store until his father's death in 1909. Later, the family moved to Brooklyn. After completing grade school in 1910, Buchalter obtained employment as a salesman for a concern engaged in distributing theatrical goods.

CRIMINAL CAREER:

Buchalter was first arrested on September 2, 1915, on a charge of burglary. Released by the grand jury, he was next arrested in January, 1916, on a similar charge, but he was again released. His first real brush with law enforcement came the following month, when he was arrested at Bridgeport, Connecticut, charged with the theft of a grip from an automobile. Following his conviction, he was sentenced to the Connecticut Reformatory at Cheshire, Connecticut, where he was received in May, 1916.

For the next dozen years Buchalter was in and out of prison on numerous occasions, being arrested on charges including burglary, armed robbery, grand larceny and consorting with criminals. During this time, he became closely associated with Jacob Shapiro, and the notorious careers of the two were closely allied thereafter.

During the early 1930's, Buchalter and Shapiro turned to the lucrative rackets which were plaguing the entire New York area. In the years that followed, they built a criminal empire seldom matched in the annals of racketeering. The activities of their mob became the subject of headline after headline in the

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Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

60-1501-4327  
ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

metropolitan dailies. With the typical weapons of their ilk, they attacked the poultry, fur, artichoke and clothing industries. Brutality, violence, intimidation and vandalism were their stock in trade as they moved in on flourishing businesses. Lead pipes, stench bombs, bullets and strong-armed bandits were the tools they used. It was soon obvious that it was far less painful to give the outlaws their "cut" than to defy them. One New York man, sitting quietly at home, was approached by a stranger carrying a folded newspaper. Not a word was spoken as the intruder took from the newspaper a bottle of acid which he dashed into the face of the innocent victim, leaving him seriously burned and scarred for life. The owner of a business in New Jersey learned the ways of the racketeers when his plant was bombed. Buchalter's hirelings, armed with iron pipes wrapped in newspapers and with guns, staged a daring attack on the headquarters of a union while a meeting was in progress. Another enemy of the rackets was found in a ditch in Detroit, tied securely in a jackknife position.

Once established as a kingpin of this vicious empire, Louis Buchalter found it convenient and undoubtedly much safer to retire behind the scenes. He became one of the wealthiest of men; living in sumptuous luxury and directing his reign of terror from afar.

Although arrested on many occasions, he seemed to be immune to punishment. Finally, however, towards the end of 1936, authorities started to close in. In November of that year he was convicted, with Shapiro, for violation of the Federal antitrust laws. The following August, Buchalter and Shapiro were indicted, with 14 others, by a grand jury of New York City for conspiracy to extort money from clothing manufacturers. With a long list of other charges about to be leveled against him, Buchalter decided to go into hiding. He dropped out of sight, but while continuing the tremendous investigations necessary to bring him to justice, authorities directed their attention to his henchmen. Federal and local grand juries began studying in detail the methods and records of the racketeers. Buchalter's underworld associates were being forced to appear in court. Big shot mobsters in various parts of the United States were summoned to appear before grand juries. In short, "the heat was on." The hoodlums facing the grand juries realized that the whole illegitimate empire was crumbling, with Buchalter apparently about to squirm out from under it. New York authorities, however, had not forgotten him. They issued a \$25,000 reward for him, dead or alive. The investigation of the FBI to locate Buchalter was intensified, and the pressure from the underworld for Buchalter's appearance mounted. Finally, in August, 1939, Buchalter found that he could no longer hide, and he was forced to give himself up to the FBI.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501-NR DATED 11/28/56**

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: November 28, 1956

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: *Louis Buchalter*

There are attached excerpts concerning the above-captioned case taken from "The FBI Story, A Report to the People," by Don Whitehead published by Random House, 1956. These excerpts are from page(s) 109-110 of the book.

The full text of the book may be found in the FBI Library.

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

60-1501-✓  
NOT RECORDED

5 MAR 11 1957

Sect. 103

One of these was the arrest of the notorious Louis (Lepke) Buchalter whose gang forced the baking industry alone to pay them an estimated \$1,000,000 for protection.

As the FBI closed in on Buchalter, Walter Winchell broadcast a radio appeal for the gang leader to surrender, with the promise that his civil rights would be respected by the FBI. Negotiations began immediately between intermediaries of Buchalter and Winchell and finally an agreement was reached.

On the night of August 24, 1939, Director Hoover walked alone through New York City's streets to the corner of 28th Street and Fifth Avenue. And there the hunted man, Buchalter, surrendered to him. The FBI got Buchalter, and Winchell got an exclusive story. Buchalter was turned over to state authorities and later was executed for murder.

*Excerpt from pages 109, 110 of  
"The FBI Story, A Report to the  
People" by Don Whitehead*

ENCLOSURE

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**

**60-1501 SUB A SECTION 3**

4-14-39

Los Angeles, Calif.

B'Nai B'Rith

(COMMUNITY PRESS)

Friday, April 14, 1939

# Spur Campaign

## Buchalter, Indicted N. Y. Fur Racketeer, Sought in L. A.

Bearing a warrant for the arrest of Louis Buchalter, a fugitive from New York, where he is being sought in connection with terrorizing activities in the garment, fur dressing, flour and trucking industries, Harold Nathanson, assistant director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, arrived in Los Angeles yesterday.



LOUIS BUCHALTER

Buchalter, one of the most notorious figures in Eastern underworld circles, is believed operating on the West coast from a hideout in Hollywood, Nathanson stated.

Local law enforcement agencies have been warned to be on the lookout for Buchalter, who dropped from sight about a year ago after federal agents in New York opened a drive against racketeering in key industries.

Buchalter's presence in Los Angeles, federal investigators point out, may be concerned with attempts to gain a foothold in organizing "protective" associations here similar to those he operated in New York.

Buchalter began his career as a minor hoodlum, gaining prominence in the underworld until as a leading racketeer he controlled his own organization of strong-

arm men and gunmen, which was believed to number from 200 to 500 men. He collected millions of dollars in tribute from legitimate business men through the protection racket, Nathanson said.

### Strike-Breaking Activities

His activities also extended into strike-breaking and labor union coercion, the federal officer declared.

Buchalter is known variously as Louis Buckhouse, Louis Kawer, Louis Cohen, Louis Kauvar and Louis Buckholtz. Other aliases include Louis Laurar, Louis Saffer, Louis Kauver, Lou Brodsky, "Judge Brodsky."

Born February 12, 1897, Buchalter is about 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighs 160 pounds, has dark hair, dark complexion and brown eyes, large blunt nose and prominent ears. He has an 18-year-old son, Harold.

Many of Buchalter's victims—small businessmen upon whom he preyed while in New York—were of the Jewish faith. Persons having knowledge of his whereabouts are requested to communicate with the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

**BETH OLAM**  
Cemetery and Mausoleums  
HOLLYWOOD

NO 2322 NO 3610

**900 N. GOWER STREET**  
H. Low Zuckerman, Pres.  
Morris Laskowitz, Mgr.

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Nathan ✓  
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Crowl ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Foxworth ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Harbo ✓  
Mr. Lester ✓  
Mr. McLaughlin ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓

b7c

60-1501-A

Sect. 3

R



RECORDED

60-1501

-537

November 11, 1937

MEMORANDUM FOR THE IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

RE: FUR DRESSING INVESTIGATION;  
JACOB SHAPIRO, with aliases -  
Fugitive; LOUIS BUCHALTER,  
with aliases, Fugitive, et al;  
ANTITRUST.

Transmitted herewith is a draft of an Identification  
Order concerning the fugitive Louis Buchalter. Kindly verify  
the fingerprint classification and check your files for any  
recent arrest of this individual.

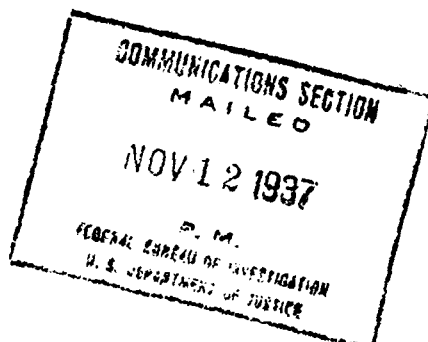
When the above has been completed, kindly transmit  
the attached to the Mechanical Section.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Boardman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Jones	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....



b7c



60-1501-237 Sub. 5

**NAME AND ALIASES:**

LOUIS BUCHALTER, with aliases: Louis Kauvar, Louis Kauer, Louis Kauver, Louis Lauvar, Louis Buckhouse, Louis Buckhalter, Louis Buckholts, Louis Cohen, Louis Saffer, "Lepke", "Lepky", "Lefky", "Sefky".

**FINGERPRINT CLASSIFICATION:**

15 0 25 W II 16  
M 27 W 0

**OFFENSE:**

VIOLATION ANTITRUST LAWS

**DESCRIPTION:**

Age, 40 years (born February 12, 1897, New York, New York)  
Height, 5 feet 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches  
Weight, 160 pounds  
Build, medium  
Hair, dark brown  
Eyes, brown  
Complexion, dark  
Race, white  
Nationality, American-Jewish  
Education, Grammar School  
Occupation, racketeer  
Scars & Marks, appendicitis operation scar  
Peculiarities, nose large, rather straight and blunt; ears prominent;  
eyes alert, shifting.

Photograph taken, June 12, 1935

CRIMINAL RECORD:

\*As Louis Kauvar, #--, arrested Bridgeport, Connecticut, Police Department, February 29, 1916; charge theft; sentence May 16, 1916, indeterminate sentence State Reformatory, Cheshire, Connecticut.

As Louis Kauvar, #517, received State Reformatory, Cheshire, Connecticut, May 16, 1916; crime theft; sentence indeterminate; released on parole July 12, 1917; absconded July 28, 1917; warrant issued never executed; dismissed by Parole Board December 9, 1931.

\*As Louis Buchalter, #B 46045, arrested New York, New York, Police Department, September 28, 1917; charge grand larceny, second degree; sentence January 11, 1918, 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  years Sing Sing Prison.

\*As Louis Buchalter, #--, received Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, January 11, 1918; crime grand larceny, second degree; sentence 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  years; transferred February 19, 1918, to Auburn Prison, New York.

\*As Louis Buchalter, #A 36326, received Auburn Prison, New York, February 19, 1918, on transfer from Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York; crime grand larceny, second degree; transferred May 21, 1918 to Great Meadow Prison, Comstock, New York.

\*As Louis Buchalter, #4474, received Great Meadow Prison, Comstock, New York, May 21, 1918, on transfer from Auburn Prison, New York; discharged January 27, 1919.

\*As Louis Cohen, #B 46045, arrested New York, New York, Police Department, January 22, 1920; charge attempted burglary, third degree; sentence June 21, 1920, 2 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  years Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York.

\*As Louis Cohen, #--, received Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, June 21, 1920; crime attempted burglary, third degree; sentence 2 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  years; released on parole March 16, 1922; discharged December 19, 1922.

\*As Louis Buchalter, #B 46045, arrested New York, New York, Police Department, November 11, 1931; charge extortion; dismissed June 16, 1932.

\*As Louis Buchalter, with aliases, arrested New York, New York, Police Department on ten other occasions between September 2, 1915 and June 12, 1933; discharged.

As Louis Buchalter, #70172, arrested United States Marshal, Southern District of New York, November 21, 1935; charge violation of Antitrust laws; released November 21, 1935, on bail pending trial; sentence November 12, 1936, 2 years penitentiary, and \$10,000.00 fine.

As Louis Buchalter, #--, received United States Detention Headquarters, New York, New York, November 12, 1936; crime Sherman Antitrust Law; sentence, 2 years and \$10,000.00 fine; December 8, 1936, released on bail pending appeal; March 8, 1937,

conviction reversed.

An indictment was returned by the Federal Grand Jury, Southern District of New York, at New York, New York, on November 6, 1935, charging Louis Buchalter with aliases, and others with violating the Sherman Antitrust Law, in that he with others conspired to restrain interstate commerce; to monopolize interstate commerce; attempted to monopolize interstate commerce, and had monopolized interstate commerce. He failed to appear in Federal Court on July 6, 1937 and his bail in the amount of \$3,000.00 was forfeited and a warrant issued for his arrest.

Law enforcement agencies kindly transmit any additional information or criminal record to the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice.

If apprehended please notify the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., or the Special Agent in Charge of the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation listed on the back hereof which is nearest your city.

Issued by:

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

(OVER)

\*Represents notations unsupported by fingerprints.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**  
**60-1501 SUB A SECTION 4**

# U.S. Opens Vast Crime Inquiry

By JOHN WADE and ARNOLD PRINCE

A Special Federal grand jury sitting in New York City will launch a drive Monday on all phases of crime in the United States. According to officials nothing approaching it in magnitude has been attempted heretofore. Acting under special authority of U. S. Attorney General Murphy, the jury is to investigate the entire American underworld.

All evidence will be checked against a file of 500,000 pages of crime reports and investigations assembled by the FBI throughout the nation since 1937. Ultimately, seven other Federal Grand Juries now functioning are to be assigned parts in the gigantic task.

Principal case to receive immediate consideration is that of Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, malignant garment, bakery and narcotic racketeer, who has been a fugitive from New York City since July, 1937.

The Mirror learned yesterday that subpoenas are being served on an amazing variety of witnesses to be questioned in connection with the long hunt for Lepke. Proceeding under sections of the Lindbergh law, and guided by precedents established in the Dillinger and Bremer kidnap gang cases, everyone known to have sheltered Lepke, or aided him in any way, is to be brought before the jury.

## Lepke First Target

This will include physicians said to have treated him for a kidney ailment he has long suffered, attorneys he has consulted and other persons who came into contact with him while he was a fugitive and did not inform the authorities.

Prosecutions against these will be started under Federal statutes.

Jacob (Gurrah) Shapiro, once Lepke's partner in the rackets and now said to be his implacable enemy, and J. Richard (Dixie) Davis, former Dutch Schultz attorney, also are to be witnesses. Gurrah is being brought to New York City from the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta, where he is serving a term for violating the Sherman Anti-Trust Laws. He is expected to give information helpful in finding Lepke and revealing the extent of his operations, which have resulted in at least five murders and spread terror in various industries.

## U. S. Attorney Gets Lepke Records



In Federal Court, U. S. Attorney Cahill and his staff go over evidence against fugitive racketeer Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, which was sent from Washington by F. B. I. L. to r.: Mathias Correa, William Young, Cahill and Jerome Doyle.

Federal officials yesterday emphasized, however, that the Lepke case is but one to be investigated. New York City is to become the headquarters for an integrated campaign against criminal bands the nation over, in which information obtained here will be distributed among Federal attorneys and State officials throughout the nation.

The subpoena power will be used in this district for the general probe, and leads uncovered outside the jurisdiction will be passed on to wherever they apply. Without disparaging the seriousness of this inquiry, it was pointed

60-1501-A

but that it will be the climax of a series of moves to put United States District Attorney Cahill in the national limelight, not forgetting that Tom Dewey is also a famous prosecutor.

The evidence fills 86 huge volumes which were brought to New York City under the personal supervision of J. Edgar Hoover, chief of G-men. He calls the books



(Mirror)  
**ATTY. GEN. MURPHY**  
Requests Special Federal Grand Jury to act on nationwide scale.

an "Encyclopedia of Crime." U. S. Attorney Cahill of New York City will have charge of the presentation of evidence and the calling of witnesses. He will be assisted by three expert aides—Assistant U. S. Attorneys Mattias Correa, Jerome Doyle and William Young, the latter, as head of the narcotics division, being particularly interested in the revelation that Lepke, among his underworld activities, is the head of a \$3,000,000 narcotics ring operating out of New York City.

#### **Aided in Six States**

As a further step toward centralizing the national crime drive the headquarters of Myron Gurney, chief inspector of the F.B.I., has moved to New York City. Agents under Gurney gathered

much evidence bearing on the case since he became a fugitive. They are said to have identified persons in six states who allegedly aided him in various ways, or came into contact with him, without notifying the authorities.

The Federal penalty for this, it was said, will be rigidly enforced.

Federal authorities yesterday further confirmed the fact that Lepke, now supposedly "near New York," traveled widely since he disappeared from his local haunts two years ago. His flight took him across the nation and he is known to have visited Karlsbad, Bohemia, for the baths which are supposed to be helpful for his kidney ailment.

Lepke is sought on a bench warrant as well as on an indictment accusing him of violating

the narcotic laws. Federal authorities and District Attorney Dewey further charge that he is under suspicion of having ordered the murder of five potential witnesses against him. A mistake in carrying out his alleged instructions is believed to have caused the fatal shooting recently of Irving Penn, the Bronx music publisher, who lived in the same apartment house as Philip Orlovsky, held by Dewey as a material witness against Lepke.

Borough President Lyons of the Bronx yesterday wrote the Board of Estimate urging it at its meeting Monday to vote a \$10,000 reward for the capture of Penn's slayers. His letter stated in part:

"While I am in favor of a \$25,000 reward for the capture of Lepke, dead or alive, I think that as a matter of social jus-

tice we should be even more concerned with the apprehension and conviction of the murderer of Irving Penn, a reputable citizen who happened to live in the same apartment house as the intended victim."

Lyons charged that the killing of Penn might have been avoided if Dewey "had exercised the same precaution before the murder that he has since, in behalf of persons held as material witnesses in the Lepke case."

Assistant District Attorney Murray Gurfeln yesterday conferred for an hour with Commissioner Valentine and other high officials in the Lepke case. He declined to make a statement to newspapermen when he left Police Headquarters.

# EX-DOPE KING IS SQUEALING ABOUT LEPKE

## Katzenberg Called as Star U. S. Witness in Gang Roundup

Yasha Katzenberg, so-called king of dope smugglers, bobbed up today as a star witness for the special Federal Grand Jury which Monday will attempt to take the entire American underworld apart.

Katzenberg was sentenced to ten years in prison a year ago and it had been believed that he was removed, as is the custom, to some Federal penitentiary.

Instead, it develops, he has remained right here in the Federal House of Detention and has been talking his head off. He would like very much to have some of those ten years lopped off and has given the Federal Bureau of Information some fifteen fat volumes of evidence.

### Lepke Still Doing Business

Yasha has given the Government the information which led to a ten-count narcotics indictment against fugitive Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, most wanted gangster in America.

Yasha has also informed the G-men, it is understood, that the missing Lepke is still financially interested in a large and prosperous New York clothing concern.

Two executives of the company will be summoned before the Grand Jury. United States Attorney John E. Cahill will demand to know if they have been in communication with Lepke or have sent him any money, and if so, how.

In his prosperous days, when millions of dollars of dope were being bought in from the Orient through San Francisco, Yasha himself posed as a prosperous clothing merchant.

The Grand Jury was sworn in only two weeks ago to take action on eighty-six volumes of evidence as to how wanted racketeers and gangsters such as Lepke are able to hide out successfully.

Equipped with the 170,000 pages of material Cahill will strive chiefly to uncover the "underground railway" which whisks criminals to safety and keeps them supplied with money.

The line of attack is indicated by the fact that the managers of a number of upstate health sanatoriums will be summoned. The G-men evidently suspect that some of these resorts are not all they pretend to be.

This indicates that there is suspicion Lepke may have been whiling away some of his time in a wheel chair, with a pretty nurse, or nurses, to attend him.

It is known that he suffers from a kidney ailment and that he has twice gone to Europe to take the baths.

### Put Finger on Torrio, Too

It was Yasha Katzenberg who took the witness stand and put the finger on John Torrio during the Little Fellow's trial in April. He gave detailed testimony concerning operations of the "Big Seven," prohibition syndicate which included Torrio, and Torrio suddenly entered a plea of guilty. He is now serving two and a half years.

As the Government prepared to go into action Monday the underworld rocked with the most serious diplomatic problem it has ever faced. The calling of the special Grand Jury, with authorization of United States Attorney General Frank Murphy, is in effect an ultimatum: Unless the underworld produces Lepke and turns him in there is going to be trouble all along the line.

Eighty-six volumes of evidence, an "encyclopedia of crime," can cause plenty of trouble for plenty of people.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Crowl	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Lawler	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Clipping from  
NEW YORK POST

DATE: AUG 3 - 1936

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK  
DIVISION.

sect. 4



Mr. Tolson.....  
 Nathan.....  
 E. A. Tamm.....  
 Clegg.....  
 Mr. Coffey.....  
 Mr. Egan.....  
 Mr. Glavin.....  
 Mr. Crowl.....  
 Mr. Harbo.....  
 Mr. Lester.....  
 Mr. Lawler.....  
 Mr. Nichols.....  
 Mr. Rosen.....  
 Mr. Sears.....  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm.....  
 Mr. Tracy.....  
 Miss Gandy.....

## \$30,000 Is Offered For Surrender of Lepke, Gangster

**Racketeer's Aides  
 Also Sought as Dewey  
 And Hoover Press Hunt**

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Aug. 8.—Somewhere in hiding today is a middle-aged man with a \$30,000 price on his head.

He is Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, 42, a stocky, swarthy, big-nosed gangster—newest wearer of the ever-shifting title, "public enemy No. 1."

J. Edgar Hoover, G-man chief whose men have hunted Lepke for two years, will pay \$5,000 for him. District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey—thanks to action yesterday by the City Board of Estimate—has raised New York's ante to \$25,000.

**Secrecy Promised.**

Both Mr. Hoover and Mr. Dewey have promised to keep secret the

name of the person who "puts the finger" on Lepke, and the reward will be paid whether the fugitive racketeer, held responsible by Mr. Dewey for the slaying of five former associates since he jumped \$10,000 bail, is captured dead or alive.

In the hope of obtaining a lead to Lepke's whereabouts, Mr. Dewey ordered an eight-State alarm for Isidore Zennreich, 41, a partner of Lepke and Jacob (Gurrah) Shapiro in the days when they dominated the baking and garment industry rackets here.

**Part of Anti-Crime Drive.**

The search for Lepke was just one angle of an assault against a national "confederacy of crime" undertaken by a Federal grand jury impaneled by United States Attorney John T. Cahill.

Several business executives were named on the jury which prepared to begin immediate consideration of an 86-volume "Encyclopedia of Crime" prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Hoover, F. B. I. chief, is taking personal command of the investigative end of the "anti-crime" drive.

60-1581-7

Mr. Tolson.....  
 Mr. Nathan.....  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm.....  
 Mr. Clegg.....  
 Mr. Coffey.....  
 Mr. Egan.....  
 Mr. Glavin.....  
 Mr. Crowl.....  
 Mr. Harbo.....  
 Mr. Lester.....  
 Mr. Lawler.....  
 Mr. Nichols.....  
 Mr. Rosen.....  
 Mr. Sears.....  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm.....  
 Mr. Tracy.....  
 Mr. Gandy.....

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# **\$30,000 Price Put on Racketeer's Head**

NEW YORK, Aug. 8—It is now worth \$30,000 to any one providing information leading to the capture, dead or alive, of Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, industrial racketeer, and "the nation's most dangerous criminal."

Dist. Attg. Dewey believed such a fortune might tempt an informer who otherwise would be frightened by the knowledge that at least five former gangster associates of Lepke, who might have testified against him, have been assassinated in recent months.

The hunt for Lepke, in which the Federal Government is taking part, is the first phase of a nation-wide war on crime directed by a Federal grand jury here.

At Mr. Dewey's request, the City Board of Estimate yesterday raised the bounty on Lepke from \$5000 to \$25,000. The F. B. I. is offering another \$5000. The Police Department started today

printing 1,000,000 "wanted" circulars, to be distributed over the country.

Lepke long has been identified with fur, bakery and other rackets. He is believed still active, getting extortion money from merchants, thru his associates, at his hiding place. Twenty of his associates are under indictments for various crimes. Some are in custody. Some are being hunted.

The city also offered \$5000 reward for the capture of the killers of Irvin Penn, music publisher, who apparently was mistaken for a potential witness against Lepke who lived in the neighborhood. Penn was slain two weeks ago.

III

60-15017

WAGE

sect. 4

AUG 10 1935

# U.S., N. Y. Join In Wide Hunt For Buchalter

## Special Grand Jury Convenes to Wage War on Racketeers

By the Associated Press

New York, Aug. 7.—Federal and city authorities took three long strides today in the campaign of the public versus Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, fugitive industrial racketeer accused of conducting a stealthy and deadly war against his erstwhile gangster associates.

The Federal Government convened an extraordinary grand jury to collect and integrate information in a national attack on crime, in which Lepke's capture figured as one specific objective.

### Zennreich Hunted

The police sent out an eight-State alarm for Isidore Zennreich, accused Lepke associate, coincident with District Attorney Dewey's disclosure that "Izzy" and four others had been indicted with Lepke and his former top partner, Jacob (Gurrah) Shapiro, as bakery racketeers.

With deliberate fanfare, to impress upon the public consciousness New York's urgent desire for the capture of Lepke, the city board of estimate posted a \$25,000 dead-or-alive reward for the saturnine gangster.

### Jury Carefully Chosen

The board also offered a \$5,000 reward for the killers of Isadore Penn, a quiet Bronx householder whose recent assassination spurred the search for Lepke. Penn, authorities say, was cut down by gunners in the mistaken notion he was a Dewey witness of similar appearance.

The new Federal grand jury, which the Government will use as a national anti-crime clearing house, was selected with extraordinary secrecy, no outsiders being permitted when the court met. Its personnel was likewise unusual, the list of its membership being studded with men of far more than average business and professional experience, including a half-dozen highly paid industrial executives.

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Miss Gandy.....

*Ew*

*T*

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Mr. Tolson.....  
 Mr. Nathan.....  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm.....  
 Mr. Clegg.....  
 Mr. Coffey.....  
 Mr. Egan.....  
 Mr. Glavin.....  
 Mr. Ladd.....  
 Mr. Nichols.....  
 Mr. Rosen.....  
 Mr. Tracy.....  
 Miss Gandy.....

## DEWEY TO GUARD LEPKE INFORMER

**Will Keep Identity Secret  
as Protection against  
Retaliation**

Federal and city agencies directing a nation-wide hunt for Louis (Lepke) Buchalter pinned their chief hope today on the \$30,000 reward that is now offered for information leading to his capture, dead or alive.

District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey made no secret of the fact and promised complete protection to any person whose fear of underworld retaliation may prove less strong than the lure of the small fortune offered for the nation's No. 1 racketeer.

"My office and that of Captain Rothengast are open twenty-four hours a day," Dewey said. "The person who gives the information leading to Lepke's arrest will be fully protected, his identity will never be revealed and information will be received with absolute confidence."

Captain Rothengast is in charge of a special squad of fifty-five policemen and detectives assigned to the Lepke search.

Following the action of the Board of Estimate yesterday in increasing the city's reward from \$5,000 to \$25,000, in addition to the \$5,000 still offered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Police Department began printing 1,000,000 circulars giving Lepke's description and details of the new offer.

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Nov 17 1935

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Sec. 4

# City Votes \$25,000 Reward for Lepke

As the Federal Government yesterday opened its greatest nation-wide crime drive by swearing in the special Grand Jury that will begin taking evidence in New York City today, the Board of Estimate increased to \$25,000 the city's reward for the capture of Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, the swarthy fugitive racketeer who is the kingpin in the investigation.

The Federal Government picked yesterday was chosen for has a standing offer of \$5,000 for Lepke, which brings to \$30,000 the total that will be paid to anyone bringing him in dead or alive.

The Board of Estimate also voted a reward of \$5,000 for the arrest of the four assassins who recently shot down Irving Penn, the Bronx music house publishing executive, presumably under the mistaken impression that he was Philip Orlovsky, a material witness held by District Attorney Dewey for the trial of Lepke if he is ever caught.

Dewey, on learning that the Board of Estimate had increased its reward for Lepke's capture from \$5,000 to \$25,000, issued the following statement pledging protection to anyone who helps bring Lepke to earth:

"Twenty-five thousand dollars will now be paid by the City of New York for information leading to the capture of 'Lepke' Buchalter.

"My office and that of Capt. Conrad Rothengast are open 24 hours a day.

## Protection Pledged

"The person who gives the information leading to the arrest of Lepke will be fully protected.

"His or her identity will never be revealed. The information will be received in absolute confidence."

Earlier in the day Dewey had caused an 8-State alarm to be sent out for the arrest of Isidore Zenereich, described as the "bag man" who made the collections for the Lepke-Gurrah combination of racketeers in the garment and bakery rackets.

No effort was made to examine witnesses, the initial efforts of the newly selected jury being devoted to organization. The first of those who have been summoned from all parts of the country to appear before the jury will be heard this morning, it was said.

United States Attorney Cahill will be in general charge of the crime drive. Wherever evidence is uncovered by the Grand Jury in New York City of violations in other States, the information will be forwarded to the proper authorities for what the Government expects will be swift follow up action.

Three assistant U. S. attorneys, Mathis Correa, Jerome Doyle and William Young, will present evidence to the grand jury and question witnesses.

The special grand jury will inquire particularly into the manner in which Lepke has avoided capture since he jumped his \$10,000 bail bond two years ago. A report that an underworld organization exists for the protection of criminals fleeing from one jurisdiction to another will be carefully investigated.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

60-1501-A

# Reward for Lepke

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The Federal Government has a standing offer of \$5,000 for Lepke, which brings to \$30,000 the total that will be paid to anyone bringing him in dead or alive.

The Board of Estimate also voted a reward of \$5,000



These are the hunted eyes of Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, for whose capture Federal and City Governments offer \$30,000 reward.



LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER

Rogues gallery photo of the fugitive. Description—41 years; 5 feet, 7 1/4 inches; 174 pounds; medium build; black hair; brown eyes. (Other photo on Page 1)

for the arrest of the four assassins who recently shot down Irving Penn, the Bronx music house publishing executive, presumably under the mistaken impression that he was Philip Orlovsky, a material witness held by District Attorney Dewey for the trial of Lepke if he is ever caught.

## Membership of U. S. Crime Jury

Here are the 23 men, most of them important executives, business and professional men who have, retired—who were selected yesterday to sit in New York City as members of the special Federal Grand Jury which will investigate all phases of crime in the United States:

ROBERT M. GATES, 45 Broadway Pl., Scarsdale, executive of the Superheater Corporation of 80 E. 42nd St., foreman.  
CLIFFORD H. McCall, 1100 Park Ave., stock broker at 254 Park Ave.  
MATTHEW WHITELAW, 23 E. 14th St., architect at 80 Broad St.  
JAMES ALBERT WOODS, 408 Pelham Manor Rd., Pelham Manor, 34 vice-president, Chilean Nitrate Sales, 120 Broadway.  
STANTON J. JOSEPH, 120 West End Ave., salesman, Tockes Lithograph Co., 460 W. 14th St.  
GEORGE E. CHATILLON, 12 E. 32nd St., scales manufacturer, 39 Cliff St.  
ALBERT LEDEBERG, 31 Post Rd., retired.  
EDWARD F. SNOW, 171 W. 61st St., consultant at 171 Amsterdam Ave.  
BENJAMIN BERNSTEIN, 145 W. 86th St., real estate, with offices at 131 E. 23d St.  
FREDERICK A. WILLIAMS, Lake Rd., Manhattan, president Cannon Mills, 70 Worth St.  
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON, 644 W. 148th St., retired.  
GARRISON NORTON, 2 E. 10th St., certified public accountant at 1 Cedar St.  
FERDINAND MAIER, 673 W. 145th St., real estate, 78 Riverside Dr.  
FREDERICK A. DECKER, 539 W. 156th St., electrical and mechanical engineer.  
CHARLES M. VAN KLEECK, 10 Mitchell Pl., retired.  
WILBERT D. SMITH, 41 W. 12nd St., retired.  
SAMUEL REICH, 3506 Broadway, retired.  
HENRY L. DAVIS, 3563 Balmwidar Ave., retired.  
FRANK E. JANKE, 64 Washington Ave., Suffern, N. Y., executive, American Brake Shoe and Foundry Co., at 230 Park Ave.  
CLARENCE W. FREEMAN, 40 E. 66th St., insurance broker at 119 Fulton St.  
HARRY A. WILKES, 101 W. 41st St., manager.  
SIDNEY WORME, 120 Beaufort Pl., New Rochelle, merchant at 150 Madison Ave.  
JOSEPH GILCHRIST, 338 Riverside Dr.

Dewey, on learning that the Board of Estimate had increased its reward for Lepke's capture from \$5,000 to \$25,000, issued the following statement pledging protection to anyone who helps bring Lepke to earth:

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The special Federal grand jury picked yesterday was chosen for its extraordinary task from a panel of 50.

No effort was made to examine witnesses, the initial efforts of the newly selected jury being devoted to organization. The first of those who have been summoned from all parts of the country to appear before the jury will be heard this morning, it was said.

United States Attorney Cahill will be in general charge of the crime drive. Wherever evidence is uncovered by the Grand Jury in New York City of violations in other States, the information will be forwarded to the proper authorities for what the Government

ERROR

193 YORK DIVISION.

Sept. 4

## Two Witnesses Face U. S. Jury In Lepke Hunt

**Reported To Be Relatives of  
Racketeer; Special Care  
Taken to Guard Secrecy**

The Federal Grand Jury impaneled on Monday for an investigation of the criminal elements of the nation and those that harbor them, with special attention to be centered on a hunt for Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, fugitive industrial racketeering chief, began its activities yesterday with the hearing of two witnesses.

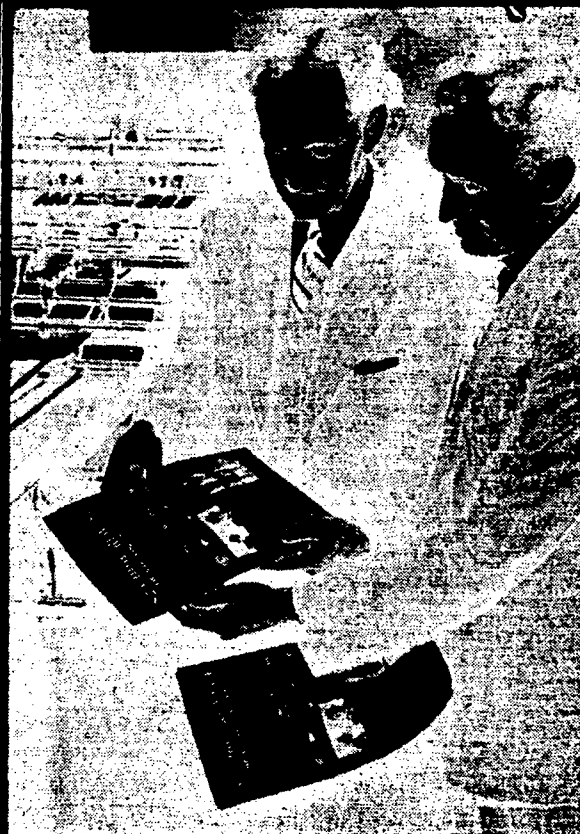
These were an elderly gray-haired woman and a portly middle-aged man whose identities were not made known but who were reported to be relatives of the fugitive gangster. Their examination by Jerome Doyle, Assistant United States Attorney, was preceded by a short address to the jury by Mr. Doyle on the scope and nature of the government's inquiry.

Elaborate precautions have been taken by John T. Cahill, United States Attorney directing the government's inquiry, to protect witnesses and guard the secrecy of the investigation. All witnesses, it was discovered yesterday, are to be taken through a basement entrance at the northeast corner of the Federal Building in Foley Square, and are to be rushed by special elevator to the sixth-floor offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A secret corridor leads from the F. B. I. office to the grand jury chambers on the same floor.

### J. Edgar Hoover to Confer

At the conclusion of the first day's session, Mr. Cahill would say only that the grand jury would resume its investigation at 2 p. m. today. P. E. Fixworth, local head of the F. B. I., who is co-operating with the United States Attorney's office, said that J. Edgar Hoover, national director of

**Issuing New Reward Offer for Lepke, Dead or Alive**



*Associated Press*  
Inspector Joseph Donovan (left), in charge of criminal identification, and Fifth Deputy Police Commissioner Martin Meaney, in charge of the police printing plant, looking over the first of the new posters run off yesterday offering a reward of \$25,000 for Louis (Lepke) Buchalter "dead or alive"

CLIPPING FROM  
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE.

DATE. AUG 8 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

Sub A Sect 4

the F. B. I., probably would be in town today to confer on plans for pressing the crime inquiry.

The city's drive on "Lepke" and his associates was taken up by the Police Department yesterday when the printing of 1,000,000 circulars was begun, offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to Lepke's capture, voted on Monday by the Board of Estimate.

The department printing presses turned out about 25,000 of the circulars during the day under the direction of Inspector Joseph Donovan, and will continue to grind them out daily until the job is finished.

These circulars, in addition to the offer of the reward, assures all informants of the utmost secrecy and protection and gives a full description of the hunted man.

#### Text of Circular

The full circular reads:

"\$25,000 Reward.

"Dead or Alive.

"Twenty-five thousand dollars will be paid by the City of New York for information leading to the capture of Lepke Buchalter, aliases Louis Buchalter, Louis Buckhouse, Louis Kavar, Louis Kauvar, Louis Cohen, Louis Saffar, Louis Brodsky. "Wanted for conspiracy and extortion.

"The person or persons who give information leading to the arrest of 'Lepke' will be fully protected, his or her identity will never be revealed. The information will be received in absolute confidence.

"Description: Age, forty-two years; white, Jewish; height, 5 feet 5½ inches; weight, 170 pounds; build, medium; black hair; brown eyes; complexion, dark; married, one son, Harold, age about eighteen years.

"Peculiarities: Eyes, piercing and shifting; nose, large, somewhat blunt at nostrils; ears, prominent and close to head; mouth, large, slight dimple left side; right-handed; suffering from kidney ailment.

"Frequent baseball games.

"Is wealthy; has connection with all important mobs in the United States. Involved in racketeering in unions, and, the industry, uses strong-arm methods. Influential.

"This department holds indictment warrant charging conspiracy and extortion, issued by the Supreme Court, Extraordinary, Special and Trial Terms, New York County.

"Kindly search your prison rec-

ords, as this man may be serving a prison sentence for some minor offense.

"If located, arrest and hold as fugitive, and advise the Detective Division, Police Department, New York City, by wire.

"Information may be communicated in person or by telephone or by telegraph, collect, to the undersigned, or may be forwarded direct to the Detective Division, Police Department, New York City.

"LEWIS J. VALENTINE,

"Police Commissioner.

"Telephone—SPRing 7-3100, SPRing 7-2722, SPRing 7-1366, or CANal 2-2000."

The announcement of the city's reward has brought a flood of tips to the Police Department. Capt. Conrad Rothengast, in charge of the office created for the Lepke hunt at headquarters, said that more than 300 letters had arrived within twenty-four hours after the announcement of the increased reward. Most of these, he said, were obviously from cranks and professed to locate Lepke all over the country.

"There is always the chance, however," said the captain, "that one of these 'tips' will really give us some important clue, and we are, therefore, going to look into every one of them."



## F. B. I. HEAD TO SEE CAHILL ON LEPKE

### 2 Grand Jury Witnesses in Inquiry Are Heavily Guarded

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was due in New York today to confer with United States Attorney John T. Cahill and P. E. Foxworth, local FBI chief, on the Government's hunt for Louis (Lepke) Buchhalter.

Meanwhile, a special Grand Jury empaneled Monday by Cahill had launched the nation-wide crime probe inspired by Lepke's two-year flight from prosecution as an industrial terrorist and extortion racketeer.

Two witnesses — a gray-haired woman and a middle-aged man — were escorted into the Grand Jury room yesterday with great secrecy and under heavy guard, and not a word could be had from Federal authorities as to their identities or the nature of their testimony.

#### Wanted: Dead or Alive

Cahill would say only that the Grand Jury was reconvening at 2 P. M. today to resume its investigation.

Simultaneously, word that the Board of Estimate had granted District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey's request for a \$25,000 price on Lepke's head was spread throughout the country by means of 25,000 "Wanted: Dead or Alive" circulars rolled off the presses yesterday for the Police Department.

They constituted the first batch of a total of 1,000,000 such circulars eventually to be distributed.

The announcement of the additional reward—a \$5,000 offer by the Government—was posted long ago in Albany, an immediate flood of

to the Detective Division, but Captain Conrad Rothengast, head of the Police Department's "Get-Lepke" squad, said most of them were obviously phoney.

Not one is being overlooked, he emphasized, however, for "there's always the chance that one of these 'tips' will really give us an important clue."

Clipping from  
NEW YORK POST

DATED AUG. 8 1935

FOR NEW YORK NEW YORK  
RECEIVED

subA 50d 4

# Lepke Posters To Cover Nation

Police have mobilized the nation to bring in Louis (Lepke) Buchalter—thief, racketeer and murderer.

Presses began to roll early yesterday, turning out circulars to advertise the \$25,000 reward posted Monday by the City Council for Lepke's capture, dead or alive. Federal authorities are offering \$5,000, bringing the total to \$30,000.

One million circulars will be printed and distributed to every police department, railroad station, steamship line, airport and bus terminal and even to the Worlds Fair.

Thus the thick, cunning face of Lepke will stare from the walls of every public gathering spot in America.

There he is: "Eyes, piercing and shifty; nose, large, somewhat blunt at nostrils; ears, prominent and close to head; mouth, large, slight dimple at left side; right-handed; suffering from kidney ailment."

His fingerprints as well as his picture are reproduced on the circular.

Police expect thousands of calls from citizens who will think they've found Lepke. Each will be investigated.

While this super-manhunt was being launched, the special Federal Grand Jury, aided by J. Edgar Hoover, head of the F. B. I., began investigating the "underground railway" by means of which Lepke has evaded capture for two years.

The jury's purpose is to uncover and indict persons who harbor and other wise aid criminals.

All of yesterday's witnesses were hurried secretly into the Grand Jury room, in F. B. I. headquarters, and spirited out by other doors. Among them were several assistant U. S. Attorneys, and one elderly couple.

Besides the \$25,000 reward voted for the arrest of Lepke, the Board of Estimate voted \$500 reward for the four gunmen who assassinated Irving Penn in the Bronx, mistaking him for a Dewey witness against Lepke.

Put Lepke's 'Mug' in Circulation



At police headquarters Inspector Joseph A. Donovan (left) in charge of Criminal Identification Bureau, and Fifth Deputy Commissioner Martin Meany examine a Lepke circular as it comes from press. (Other photos on Pages 1 and 2)

CLIPPING FROM  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS.

DATE. AUG 5 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

sub A Sect 4

DETECTIVE DIVISION  
CIRCULAR NO. 11  
AUGUST 8, 1935

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF NEW YORK

CLASSIFICATION

# \$25,000 REWARD DEAD OR ALIVE



DESCRIPTION—Age, 42 years; white, Jewish; height, 5 feet, 5 1/2 inches; weight, 170 pounds; build, medium; black hair; brown eyes; complexion dark; married, one son Harold, age about 18 years.

PECULIARITIES—Eyes, piercing and shifty; nose, large, somewhat blunt at nostrils; ears, prominent and close to head; mouth, large, slight dimple left side; right-handed; suffering from kidney ailment.

Frequent baseball games.

Is wealthy, has connections with all important mobs in the United States. Involved in racketeering in Unions and Fur Industry, uses strong-arm methods. Influential.

This Department holds indictment warrants charging Conspiracy and Extortion, issued by the Supreme Court, Extraordinary Special and Trial Terms, New York County.

Kindly search your Prison Records as this man may be serving a Prison sentence for some minor offense.

If located, arrest and hold as a fugitive and advise the THE DETECTIVE DIVISION, POLICE DEPARTMENT, NEW YORK CITY, by wire.

Information may be communicated in Person or by Telephone or Telegraph. Collect to the undersigned, or may be forwarded direct to the DETECTIVE DIVISION, POLICE DEPARTMENT, NEW YORK CITY.



LEWIS J. VALENTINE, Police Commissioner

TELEPHONE Spring 7-3100, Spring 7-2722, Spring 7-1136 or Canal 6-2600

## Dear Lepke:

Thousands of young policemen carry this "Dead or Alive" poster in their pockets this morning. Any one of them would be proud to get you, and the reward. The poster says you are a baseball fan. If you are you must know that you've struck out... with the bases loaded. Come in, Lepke, before they carry you in.

sub A Sect. 4.

# Lepke 'Clues' Swamp Police As Jury Meets

By WARREN HALL

Lepke is taking the baths in Colorado Springs . . . Lepke, wearing dark glasses and a beard and walking with a slight limp, is living in a furnished room on the East Side and only comes out after dark . . . Lepke went to Russia on a fake passport and is now in Lubianka Prison . . . Lepke has a cabin in the Catskills, but be careful, because the only entrance is covered by a hidden machine gun.

More than 300 people who knew exactly where the nation's top-ranking public enemy could be found confided his whereabouts to the police yesterday and sat back to await the arrival of a check for \$25,000. Or \$30,000, if the Government kicked in with its share.

Capt. Conrad Rothengast, in charge of the special "Get Lepke" squad of the New York police, said

there didn't seem to be a clue in the hundreds of tips. But nevertheless the flood of mail that poured into his office during the first twenty-four hours after the reward was increased for Lepke Buchalter was carefully read and sorted.

"We're going to investigate every bit of information we receive, no matter how fantastic it may sound," Rothengast said. "Most of the mail we got today seemed to be from cranks, but we can't be sure. And we're taking no chances."

Capt. Rothengast's new office, next to that of Assistant Chief Inspector John J. Ryan, resembled the headquarters of an army in the field. A constant stream of detectives flowed in and out to receive assignments, report on investigations or interview informants.

Over it all was a veil of secrecy equalled only by attempts to cover up a simultaneous burst of activity in the Government's anti-Lepke camp. So anxious was United States Attorney John T. Cahill to conceal the operations of his new Lepke Grand Jury that he insisted he didn't even know where it was meeting.



Know Him?  
It's worth \$30,000 to you.  
See page 24.  
Jury Meets in Secret.

Reporters finally discovered that the jurors had convened in a sixth floor courtroom of the Federal Courthouse, to which it was possible to bring witnesses through a private passageway from the offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the same floor.

A gray-haired woman and a portly middle-aged man were waiting in an anteroom to testify, but Cahill's assistants declined to reveal the identities.

After listening to a brief address by Assistant U. S. Attorney Jerome Doyle, a former G-Man, the jury began its monumental task of studying 500,000 pages of FBI notes on the national crime trail and its "underground railway" designed to aid such fugitives as Lepke the Leopard.

## Look for Surrender.

So concentrated was the drive to capture the racketeer that authorities would not be surprised if he realized the futility of his flight and surrendered rather than face the prospect of a none-too-gentle capture.

Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, was hopeful of receiving a reply to the promise made through The News yesterday, of safe conduct for Lepke if he agreed to turn himself up.

Meanwhile the police, with motion and still cameras recording the event for posterity, began printing the 1,000,000 new circulars announcing the \$25,000 reward.

The circulars, which promise that information will be received in "absolute confidence," contain fingerprints, pictures and a description of the fugitive. Police officers, who will receive the every part of the country, are advised to search their prison records in the belief that Lepke is serving a sentence somewhere for a minor offense.

Prospective captors were advised that Lepke was wealthy and influential, that he had connections with all important mobs in the country and that he was a promoter of baseball games.

## Lepke Safe Pledged

By authorization of the Federal Government, through Edgar Hoover, The News is enabled to assure Louis (Lepke) Buchalter of safe conduct if he wishes to surrender and accept Federal charges. If Buchalter or his intermediary will call on The News, Murray Hill 2-2352, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York City, at Murray Hill 2-3520, or in Washington, D. C. at National 7117, arrangements will be made for his surrender with complete safety.

The News will make no charge for the reward offered.

sub A Sect 4

CLIPPING FROM  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS,

DATE, AUG 8 1939  
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

# AND SEEK

—is no game when it played by Public Enemy Louis (Lepke) Buchalter and New York Police Department. Foto left, cop receive copies of new circular offering \$25,000 for Lepke dead or alive from Lieut. Thomas Gillen at Police Headquarters. The circular reproduced on this page—lower left. Since its issuance hundreds n. g. "tips" have come headquarters.

—Story on page

(NEWS foto)

DETECTIVE DIVISION  
CIRCULAR NO. 11  
AUGUST 8, 1939

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF NEW YORK

CLASSIFICATION

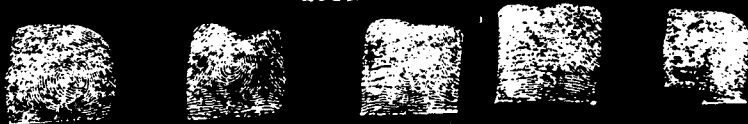
## \$25,000 REWARD DEAD OR ALIVE

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS will be paid by the City of New York for information leading to the capture of "LEPKE" BUCHALTER, aliases LOUIS BUCHALTER, LOUIS BUCKHOUSE, LOUIS KAWAR, LOUIS KAUVAR, LOUIS COHEN, LOUIS SAFFER, LOUIS BRODSKY.

### WANTED FOR CONSPIRACY AND EXTORTION

The Person or Persons who give information leading to the Arrest of "LEPKE" will be fully protected, his or her identity will never be revealed. The information will be received in absolute confidence.

RIGHT HAND



LEFT HAND



DESCRIPTION — Age, 42 years; white; Jewish; height, 5 feet, 5½ inches; weight, 170 pounds; build, medium; black hair; brown eyes; complexion dark; married, one son Harold, age about 18 years.

PECULIARITIES—Eyes, piercing and shifting; nose, large, somewhat blunt at nostrils; ears, prominent and close to head; mouth, large, slight dimple left side; right-handed; suffering from kidney ailment.

Frequents baseball games.

Is wealthy; has connections with all important mobs in the United States. Involved in racketeering in Unions and Fur Industry; uses Strong-arm methods. Influential.

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Information may be communicated in Person or by Telephone or Telegraph, Collect to the undersigned, or may be forwarded direct to the DETECTIVE DIVISION, POLICE DEPARTMENT, NEW YORK CITY



(NEWS foto)

1,000,000 of the Lepke circulars are being turned out at Headquarters. Inspector Donovan (left) and Deputy Commissioner Meaney examine them fresh off the press.

sub A Sect 4

THOMAS J. VALENTINE, Police Commissioner

# Lepke Sank Fortune In Big Dope Ring

Aside from Extortions, Leopard  
Faces 164 Years in Prison

By GEORGE CARROLL.

What did Lepke the Leopard do with all that money he made? He didn't drink it up, nor throw it away on high-life pals. He isn't a maniac at a gambling table, nor has he ever kept a racing stable in oats and hay.

Well, the Leopard was a great investor. And, according to ten indictments that stand against him on the docket of United States Court, he invested part of his money in financing the international smuggling of narcotics.

This alone would make him a prize catch just for one branch of Federal law enforcement, the Bureau of Narcotics, headed locally by Major Garland Williams.

You could forget all the extortions laid at the Leopard's door, his racketeering rule with its train of murders and maimings; you could forget District Attorney Tom Dewey and all the mass of charges he has against this old graduate of Sing Sing.

Do all that, and Louis Buchalter still would remain "wanted" in letters a foot high.

The dope indictments carry a maximum penalty of 164 years in prison!

From the Government's viewpoint, this phase of the life and works of Lepke the Leopard begins on the afternoon of Feb. 25, 1935 when something happened at 2919 Seymour ave.

## Explosion Blew Away Illusions!

The house looks just like ten thousand other houses in The Bronx. Lying in it at the time was Capt. Pietro Quinto with his wife and family. The captain is a doctor of chemistry from Bologna University. He had served in the Italian army.

Neighbors knew him as a tall, olive-complexioned man of culture and quality. He bowed from the waist to Bronx housewives who secretly wished their husbands might acquire similar charm and polish instead of going around in their suspenders. Ah, those Continentals...

There was much sympathy, consequently, at least among the captain's feminine neighbors, when an explosion and fire occurred at the Quintos that February afternoon. The captain was badly hurt; in fact his hands were burned so badly that he wore gloves after they healed.

## Confiscated \$117,600 Worth of Morphine

It was an awful disillusionment for the Seymour ave. housewives when the true story of the explosion got around. Captain Quinto belonged to a dope ring.

He utilized his home as a synthesizing laboratory for bootleg narcotics. That particular afternoon his old Bologna training had failed him somehow or other, and his mixing pots had blown apart.

In the wreckage, Major Williams' agents gathered up 1,100 ounces of morphine worth, at current underworld prices, \$117,600. Captain Quinto said he had been hired by two men to process dope at a salary of \$50 a week. He added that the two men had been murdered subsequently.

The authorities were inclined to think the captain had put his salary a little low. In his safe deposit vault at the National City Bank they found \$37,000 worth of

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guilt, pleaded with the Government to let him go back to Italy. He said he would join Italian forces, then engaged in civilizing the Ethiopians.

The Government gave Captain Quinto eight years in Federal penitentiary.

It was many, many months before Major Williams discovered that the Leopard had a paw in the case. Yet, figuratively speaking, his trail led right from the debris in Quinto's laboratory.

The Government spent all its energy to unearth full details about the syndicate for which Captain Quinto worked. It was close to two years later before Assistant U. S. Attorney Martin came up with all the answers—leastwise, he hoped they were all the answers.

On Nov. 30, 1937, he announced the indictment of 30 persons in a \$1,500,000 heroin smuggling conspiracy.

## Lepke Indicted As Dope Smuggler

The big name of all the accused smugglers was that of Lepke the Leopard. Prosecutor Martin said he had evidence the Leopard had financed two shipments of heroin from Shanghai, the last one no longer ago than February, 1937.

It is more understandable now why, in July, 1937, Lepke skipped his \$10,000 bail and failed to appear for an anti-trust trial, a case similar to one he already had beaten and which, at most, carried a 4-year penalty.

Without doubt he knew the

Government was ready to crack down with the narcotic case.

It was one thing for the Leopard's tail to be caught in a crack (he had pulled it out before) but quite another to plump on all fours into a deadfall, with escape extremely unlikely.

So the Leopard took to the jungle where he's been lost ever since.

Twenty alleged members of the syndicate were under arrest when Martin announced the indictment, among them two U. S. Customs inspectors, a customs guard and a former customs roundsman.

For bribes of \$1,000, the customs people were accused of winking at the importation of heroin over New York City piers.

## State Dept. Outwits "International Menace"

One of the principals in the ring turned out to be Yasha Katzenberg, who was branded "an international menace" by the League of Nations committee on narcotic smuggling. Yasha, a fugitive like Lepke, pleaded guilty and was given 10 years after a neat maneuver by the State Department effected his extradition from Greece.

He had bootlegged here during the dry era, and turned to dope after repeal. Scenting what might be in store for him after the explosion at Captain Quinto's, he fled his home at 10 Park View ter., The Bronx, in 1936, and started a fruit business in Rumania.

Rumania has no extradition treaty with the United States, but the State Department persuaded the Rumanian Government to deport him to Greece, which does have a treaty with Washington (the case of the late Samuel Insull is a case in point). From Greece, Yasha was shipped home to face the music.

On sentence day Prosecutor Martin told Judge Goddard that four of Katzenberg's lieutenants had been murdered over a five-year period.

Indirectly, Martin accused Katzenberg of eliminating his own chief-of-staff, Sammy Lee.

Lee was shot to death in Manhattan on Oct. 21, 1934. On that date Katzenberg had appeared at the Eastern Penitentiary and reported his name and address with a request to visit a prisoner.

the prison was prearranged and was in the nature of an alibi," declared Martin.

Another principal, Jake Lvovsky, alias Jack Goode, a pick-pocket in earlier days, pleaded guilty and drew a seven-year term. Samuel Gross, alias Johnnie Gordon, another ring leader, also pleaded guilty.

These and lesser fry remain as potential witnesses against Lepke the Leopard whenever the authorities lay hands on him.

Katzenberg and droll, moon-faced Bert Erickson, international adventurer and member of the ring, proved major Government witnesses at the recent trial of Tough Johnny Torrio, the teacher of Al Capone, who didn't pay his income taxes. Torrio pleaded guilty in the middle of his case.

## Tale of Derring-do Enlivens Dry Record

Under the scornful cross-examination of Max D. Steuer, Erickson related his biography, a tale of derring-do that is hard to match in the dry files of Federal Court.

Impassive, as motionless as though he were chained to the witness chair, he sat by the hour relating his career as a Rum Row radio operator, smuggler of guns in Central America and in-again-out-again occupant of Mexican jails with walls and doors like paper.

The incredible Erickson dispensed thrills and belly laughs alike and the courtroom loved it.

In the end, he declared the Federal Government had promised to send him back to China, whence he came voluntarily to answer his indictment.

From the standpoint of entertainment, it is to be hoped the Government has postponed Erickson's return to China and that, if and when the Leopard is caught, the sparks of Rum Row and the dope trade will be put on the stand once more.

His tales, even twice told, rate top billing at any rascal's trial.

(Tomorrow's instalment details a murder just around the corner from Police Commissioner Valentine's home in Brooklyn—and shows how it fits into the story of "Lepke, Leopard of the Rackets.")

# CAN YOU AID LAW IN FINDING HIM?

DETECTIVE DIVISION  
CIRCULAR NO. 11  
AUGUST 8, 1939

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF NEW YORK

CLASSIFICATION

## \$25,000 REWARD DEAD OR ALIVE



**DESCRIPTION** — Age, 42 years; white; Jewish; height, 5 feet, 5½ inches; weight, 170 pounds; build, medium; black hair; brown eyes; complexion dark; married, one son Harold, age about 18 years.

**PECULARITIES** — Eyes, piercing and shifting; nose, large, somewhat blunt at nostrils; ears, prominent and close to head; mouth, large, slight dimple left side; right-handed; suffering from kidney ailment.

Frequents baseball games.

Is wealthy; has connections with all important mobs in the United States. Involved in racketeering in Unions and Fur Industry, uses strong-arm methods. Influential.

This Department holds indictment warrant charging Conspiracy and Extortion, issued by the Supreme Court, Extraordinary Special and Trial Terms, New York County.

Kindly search your Prison Records as this man may be serving a Prison sentence for some minor offense.

If located, arrest and hold as a fugitive and advise the THE DETECTIVE DIVISION, POLICE DEPARTMENT, NEW YORK CITY, by wire.

Information may be communicated in Person or by Telephone or Telegraph, Collect to the undersigned, or may be forwarded direct to the DETECTIVE DIVISION, POLICE DEPARTMENT, NEW YORK CITY.



**LEWIS J. VALENTINE, Police Commissioner**

TELEPHONE: SPing 7-3100, SPing 7-2722, SPing 7-1366 or Canal 6-2007

Dead or alive, "Leopard" Lepke is. The Federal Government adds \$5,000 worth \$25,000 to the Police Department, making a total reward of \$30,000.

60-1501-A  
SPd. 4



# Surrender Of Lepke Awaited

Dewey to Quiz  
2 Brothers Who  
Predicted Slayings

While reports increased that Louis (Lepke) Buchalter is about to surrender, District Attorney Dewey turned his attention to two Brooklyn brothers who were able to predict two Lepke-ordered murders a week or more in advance.

The brothers have announced their willingness, the New York Journal and American learned, to give all their information to Dewey, not only about the murders, but also of the alliance between Lepke and Brooklyn mobsters headed by the notorious Joe Adonis.

## HOLDS OWN LIFE DEAR.

The reports of the imminent surrender of The Leopard were taken seriously by authorities and were supported by sound logic.

Although Lepke has always held the lives of others cheap, he places no such bargain price on his own skin. And, with a \$30,000 dead-or-alive reward posted for him, the chances are more than good that if he gambles on capture, rather than surrender, he will be killed.

Furthermore, he has become so "hot" that the underworld has turned against him, and he has enemies there, where he had protectors before. Finally, the gradual cutting off of his revenue and the search being pressed by the special "Lepke Squad" of police and G-men make it improbable that he can hide out much longer. This is why authorities are treat-

ing seriously the reports that The Leopard is ready to surrender to a detective he knows. The detective is connected with the office of Assistant Chief Inspector John J. Ryan.

Announcement of the reward brought an immediate flood of "clues" to the Police Department.

Capt. Conrad Rothengast, in charge of the Lepke hunt, said more than 300 letters were received in 24 hours. Although most of them obviously came from cranks, none is being overlooked.

## PREDICTION REALIZED.

The two Brooklyn brothers who have emerged in the Lepke case as forecasters of murder are to be questioned by Dewey's assistants within the next few days.

As first evidence of their somewhat spectacular prognostications, the brothers let it be known among friends in the middle of April that The Leopard had ordered an execution.

On April 26, Abraham "Whitey" Friedman, once a member of the Kid Dropper gang and later operating with the Lepke garment mob, was shot and killed as he was walking a few doors from his home at 22 E. 96th st., Brooklyn.

Friedman had been indicted in 1937 as one of the members of the mob controlled by Lepke and his partner, Jacob (Gurrah) Shapiro. He had been released in \$15,000 bail. It was believed the reason for Friedman's murder was that he had "talked," or that Lepke had thought he had "talked."

## "GUESSED" RIGHT AGAIN.

Then in the next month, the brothers came up with another prediction of murder.

About a week later, Morris Diamond, an official of a Brooklyn trucking union, was ambushed and slain.

The two brothers, who have given Special Assistant Attorney-General John Harlan Amen in Brooklyn valuable information in his investigation into official corruption, are now under police guard.

One of the brothers was a lieutenant to Joe Adonis, the Brooklyn racket chief, and acted as a kind of liaison between Adonis and Lepke.

# A Price on His Head

## \$30,000 for Lepke

The City and the Government are offering \$30,000 reward for the capture of Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, "dead or alive."

Have you any information that might lead to the hiding place of the nation's No. 1 fugitive? If you have, telephone City Editor, New York Journal and American, DRY-DOCK 4-8800. You will be fully protected.

## This is Lepke:

Age, 42; height, 5 feet, 5 inches; weight, 170 pound black hair, brown eyes, dark complexion; large nose, large mouth, dimple on left side. He is a baseball fan.

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Crowl	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Lawler	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Sears	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

CLIPPING FROM  
NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL -  
AMERICAN.

DATE. AUG 8 1933

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

60-1501A  
sect 4

# 'Set a Thief to Cat a Thief'

Editorial

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Sears .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....



LEPKE "LITTLE LOUIE" BUCHALTER is now what is known as a "hot article". There is a price of \$30,000 on his head. Not since the bloodhounds were turned loose after Hauptmann has such a hunt been staged by the Law for a fugitive from justice. When a man becomes a "hot article" in the Underworld, every hoodlum who was once a Pal becomes a potential Informer. That \$30,000 plus the promise of police protection to the man who "turns in" Lepke, will haunt the many waking and few sleeping hours that Lepke has left to live in hiding.

**A** BETTER SYSTEM OF REWARDS was invented in Texas to wipe out bank robbers: A flat reward was offered for the capture and return of every bank robber who was brought in DEAD; no reward if brought in alive. In Texas, bank-robbing stopped.

That system is a little rough; the system now squeezing in on Lepke is more subtle, but probably just as effective. Somewhere, there is somebody who knows where Lepke is hiding, somebody who could use \$30,000.

There is only one pagan god, only one code of morals, only one measure of honesty among the men whom Lepke has gathered around him, since he and his now-jailed partner Gurrah Jake Shapiro used to bash the faces of pushcart peddlers to extort "protection." That god, that measure of honesty is MONEY.

It was the itchy-fingered worship of money that made Louis Buchalter become the only one of 11 children in his immigrant family to turn out as a Public Enemy, the last and the biggest.

It was love of money that kept Lepke from learning that "Crime Doesn't Pay" after 14 brushes with the law.

And to get money, Lepke hired men who loved money as much as he did. They were his "pals." And now... \$30,000 is a lot of money. And that's the price that's been tagged on Louis Buchalter, alias Louis Buckhouse, Louis Kavar, Louis Cohen, and "Lepke."

CLIPPING FROM

NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

DATE. **AUG 8 1939**

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

60-1501

sub A sect 4

**DEWEY HINTS "BREAK" IN LEPKE HUNT**

Indicating that he expects an early "break" in the hunt for Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, District Attorney Dewey today cancelled plans to visit his home town, Oswego, Mich., next Monday.

Scratches for Rockingham Park and other tracks printed every day in Journal-American 10:30 a. m. and later editions.

Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Nathan.....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Coffey.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Glavin.....  
Mr. Ladd.....  
Mr. Nichols.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Mr. Tracy.....  
Mr. Carson.....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....  
Mr. Nease.....  
Miss Gandy.....

CLIPPING FROM  
NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL -  
AMERICAN.

DATE. **AUG 8 1939**

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

60-1501

sub A Sect. 4

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

### \$30,000 for Lepke

City and Federal rewards for information leading to the capture, dead or alive, of Louis (Lepke) Buchalter now come to a total of \$30,000 since the Board of Estimate raised the city's offer to \$25,000.

That is a lot of money for government to give away for the capture of a racketeer—enough to pay a year's home relief for twenty-four families or to support 6,000 refugee children abroad or to build ten small suburban homes.

The \$30,000 is being offered in an attempt to persuade some one of the many persons who must know Lepke's whereabouts to tell the police despite the fear of gangster reprisals. The reward is offered to make it seem worth the chance.

In this case the reward should produce results. Any one who gives a clue to Lepke's hideout can be sure of full protection from United States Attorney Cahill or District Attorney Dewey. They will keep the name of the informant secret.

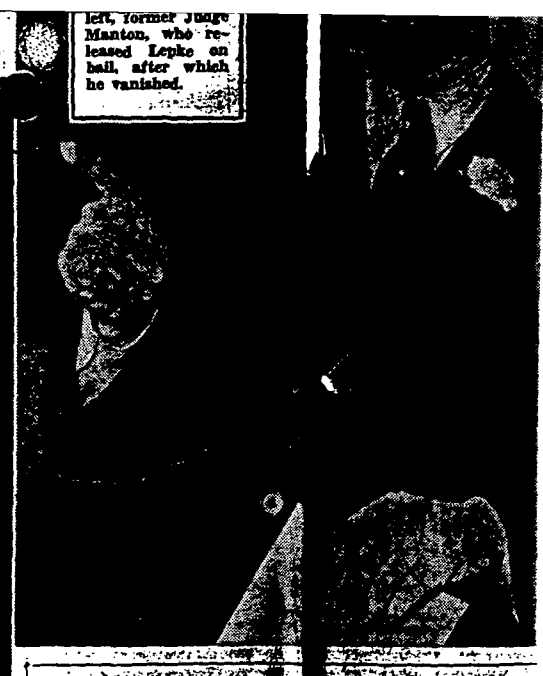
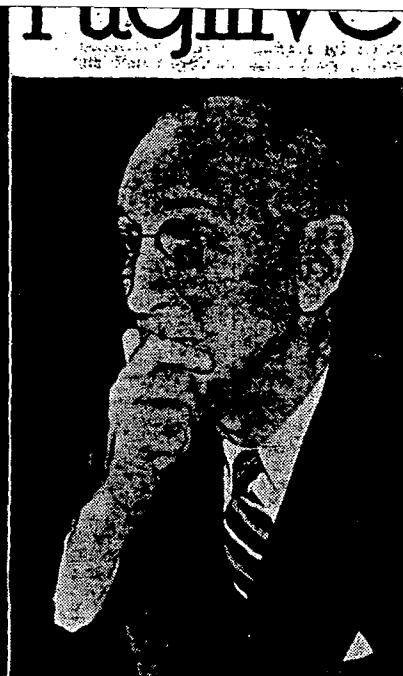
The very fact that fear of reprisals from the Lepke mob exists justifies the offering of so large a reward. The Lepke mob, by committing a series of murders of potential witnesses against its chief, put the racketeer's weapon of terrorism to the test against the weapons of civilized government. The government has a right to use its full arsenal.

Clipping from  
NEW YORK POST

DATE- **AUG 8 1939**

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK  
DIVISION.

-60-1501A Sect 4



## How Lepke Took Over An Industry

The third of a series of articles.

By JACK FOSTER,  
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

Lepke and Gurrah, so far as we can discover, entered the field of industrial racketeering 18 years ago. They were in their middle 20s then. All the while they had been stealing packages, clubbing push-cart men—small-fry stuff—they had been keeping their eyes open for bigger ventures, and in 1921 they saw their opportunity in the leather workers industry.

In 1921 the leather workers of New York organized themselves in a union that grew rapidly in strength. It became the envy of a certain mob of strong-arm men who were beginning to realize the possibilities of a new form of extortion. One afternoon in 1924, when the union was holding an election in the Hippodrome, a gang of these thugs, armed with iron pipes, swarmed in and demanded that the officers they designated be chosen.

"They demanded that each member of the union pay them 10 cents a week for 'protection.' The union capitulated. There was nothing else to do. They knew that if they refused their brains would be beaten out."

By 1924 the union had grown to 24,000 members. Then it was that Lepke decided to move in. He took over the racket by installing his own officers in the union. Through agents he demanded and received 25 cents weekly from each union member, and from the employer he exacted 10 cents for each employee.

### Big Boost.

Despite this the leather workers industry grew, and in 1929 Lepke felt himself in a position to demand \$1 from employers for each employee.

"How can we account in our books for such large sums?" employers asked Lepke's agents.

"Put it down to salary raises," Lepke's agents replied. "The employees won't dare squeal." But that was not enough. Again agents came from Lepke and demanded that the employer contribute an additional \$25 semi-annually from each employee and charge this up to bonuses.

dragging in almost three million dollars annually from the leather workers industry, if all their demands were met in full.

But the depression came, followed by the regulations of the NRA, and the industry found that with the enormity of the gangster demands it simply could not get along prosperously in New York. Leather manufacturers began leaving town, going to Bridgeport, Conn., and small Pennsylvania cities. Now there are left only a fraction of the thousands once employed in this skilled craft.

That, declares the business man who tells the story, shows what one ruthless racketeer can do to an industry.

With experience gained among the leather workers, Lepke meanwhile was branching out, and his power soon was felt in the fur dressing industry. Through Sam Mittelman he controlled the Protective Fur Dressers Corp., covering cheap furs, and through Abraham Beckerman he controlled the Fur Dressers Factor Corp., covering fancy furs.

### Had a Salary.

These organizations, vitalized by Lepke's strong-arm horde of 200 or more thugs, were to stabilize the fur industry—to maintain prices at an agreed level—to squeeze out all those who would not play ball. Lepke was to be paid a stipulated sum—in the case of the factors \$50,000, of which only one-half was actually collected—in addition to anything else he could shake down on the side.

Lepke promptly set to work to eliminate all competition, to terrorize any dealer who dared oppose the authority of the protective organizations. In New York there was the large firm of Brickner & Bernfeld, which had been sending its furs for dressing to the United Fur Breeders of Bethlehem; not a member of the Protective Corp.

"As a result, one afternoon while Mr. Brickner was driving with his daughter, a thug sped by in another car and threw acid in their faces. Shortly after this Mittelman came to him and said:

"You better give us all the work, and there won't be any trouble. Be smart. Give us the work and it won't happen again."

night he was struck on the head by an unidentified person with an iron pipe, and a little later a gallon of acid was thrown in his face. The resulting burn was so serious that one eye had to be removed.

In Gloversville, N. Y., at the same time, Samuel Nissenbaum was operating the Acme Fur Tanning Co., which was not a member of Mittelman's Protective. He continued to accept furs for dressing from various dealers in New York. As a result, a bomb exploded in his shop, causing \$3,000 damage.

### One Dealer.

Meanwhile, J. E. Joseph, a dealer at 333 Seventh Ave., also refused to send his furs to the Protective and one day he received an anonymous telephone call.

"Joseph, you take care or you'll have trouble," the voice said.

"After that," Mr. Joseph said, "I locked my doors and windows. But on Mother's Day when I was sitting near my house, a young fellow comes up, and I think he has presents my children bought for their mother. Instead, he throws acid in my face. I was blinded, but I still could see him jump in a car and speed away."

At the same time that he was terrorizing recalcitrant dealers, Lepke began to bear down on the unions—particularly the so-called Left Wing Union, the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union. It was noticeably true that those firms that opposed him for the most part employed members of the Left Wing Union, and this infuriated him.

So Mittelman was dispatched to Irving Potash and Samuel Burt, representing the Left Wing Union. They met in a Chinese restaurant early in April, 1933, and Mr. Potash in discussing their conversation later said:

### Not Playing.

"Mr. Mittelman in a sort of—well, trying to be clever, referred to the murder of Mr. Langer. (Morris Langer, union manager, fatally injured by the explosion of a bomb under the hood of his automobile.) He said to us, 'Wasn't it unfortunate that killing of Langer?' He said, 'Don't you think we ought to avoid any repetition of this sort of thing?' When we were asked to part-

presence of the others, he said, 'Potash, you know with whom we are dealing and with whom you are dealing.'

"I knew, but I wanted to be clear. I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'You know that in this association is Lepke and these people are not playing with toys, or making this sort of and again referring to Langer.'

Mittelman then asked Mr. Potash and Mr. Burt if they would 'meet the boys.' Mr. Burt said, 'Well, of course, I will have to up various disputes with them, including between the workers and the employers.'

To this Mittelman quickly responded: 'Not that. These boys take of their own disputes, and their disputes in a different manner. Whereupon Mr. Potash and Burt refused to have anything to do with them.'

The result was that on April 1933, a gang of twelve or more armed with iron pipes smashed a meeting of the union at 26th St., killed two, injured three, left the place a wreck.

gathered at a suite in the Hotel—which was in reality the place of Lepke and Gurrah—had proceeded along two down Seventh and Eighth to the union headquarters. The scene that followed was one of bloodiest in years.

By this time the government began an intensive inquiry into fur racket activities of John Harlan Amen, special agent to the Attorney General, said, Moses M. Lewis, a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, began to accumulate that resulted in indictments out of violations of the laws.

### Teeth and Claw.

They were tried by Judge John C. Knox, guilty, given two years in penitentiary and fined \$10,000 for 'knowing' the law.

"I've been on the streets for years. I've heard many lawlessness, and my feelings have become calloused. But tails of mayhem, battery, and acid throwing in the shocked and angered industry was ruled by the teeth and the claw."

Attorneys for Lepke announced that they would appeal the verdicts, but Judge Knox to grant them bail pending hearings. He declared that sentences he had been able to a mere "slap on the wrist" parison with the penalty to pay for the magnitude crimes. However, less than a Dec. 4, 1936, Federal

appeals heard their case. Lepke's privacy of his chambers and the order releasing them. Lepke's bonds at \$10,000. The smallness of which he within an hour the bond reduced—\$20,000 in 2% per bonds—and Lepke and Gurrah.

Both Vanish.

appeal this verdict was reversed and the was affirmed. Burt would be taken to the of them. Gurrah, however, was and is serving time in the pending the when he will be of either indictment the two of them.

weakness of Mr. Amen Lepke was the 'fact' not link the elusive and inevitable power in the closely enough crimes. Since the with the aid of M. the FBI he has so-called telephone calls from the Arlington Hotel in New York City, the FBI, at last the.

man—one of Lepke's—had repeatedly the had had as the fur racket, was confronted by the one midnight by a man he shut doors as if to say, 'O the? He made a complaint. The whole story of control of one of New industries has waited at the Federal Building government already from Lepke's aid forfeit suggestion Federal Attorney will deny was captured.

and tracking.

60-1501A  
sect 4

August 8, 1939

# FEDERAL CRIME PROBE STARTS

## Sagas Of 1,000 Criminals Will Be Presented New York Jury

(Special to the Miami Daily News)

NEW YORK, Aug. 8.—Matias F. Correa, chief assistant to U. S. Attorney John T. Cahill, and Jerome Doyle and William Young, assistant U. S. attorneys, will begin here this afternoon in the federal courthouse to spread before a federal grand jury the sagas of a thousand criminals in all quarters of the country in the nationwide investigation, centered here, of a crime and racket syndicate.

The jury, which was drawn yesterday afternoon from a panel of 50, was sworn in by Federal Judge Edward Conger. It is expected to sit every afternoon for the next 90 days, the time period set by federal law for a grand jury.

In presenting the evidence which will be drawn from the nearly half-million pages of a report which took the federal bureau of investigation almost two years to prepare, Correa and his assistants will place special emphasis on obtaining indictments of those who have for the last two years harbored Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, considered to be a "million dollar fugitive," and other racketeers who are in hiding.

It is expected the grand jury will not hand down any indictments for at least two weeks.

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Nathan  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Searo  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

60-1501-A  
sect. 4



Louis (Lepke) Buchalter as the police camera caught him during one of his many early brushes with the law.

From behind the scenes in the underworld Louis Buchalter, alias Lepke, is waging war on business and the law, a war costing vast sums of money. Fighting to retain his control of rackets, he is at the same time charged with carrying on a campaign to kill witnesses against his organization. In a series of articles, of which the following is the second, Staff Writer Jack Foster tells the gang chief's career and the search now under way for the million-dollar tuneup.

By JACK FOSTER,  
World-Telegram Staff Writer

Louis Buchalter—Lepke of the underworld—has become America's richest, most powerful, most thoroughly despised criminal because of the cold and calculating method of his dealings.

He never has ordered a murder merely because of anger. Unless a death has meant the removal of competition and, therefore, greater profits for him, Lepke has not been interested. Money is his god, and the men who have stood in the way of his grabbing more of it are the men who, by his business logic, eventually must die.

It is as simple as all that. While the Monk Eastmans and the Peg Leg Lonergans of the past gloried in their murders, Lepke has shunned all public show, taking his satisfaction out of the knowledge that with each new assault, clubbing or acid-throwing his might as a man of affairs has been extended.

Dixie Davis, in his Collier's article, declares that Dutch Schullitz, on reading Ludwig's Life of Napoleon decided that he was a sort of Little Corporal himself. Lepke has no such delusions. He knows that those who are bitten by the glory-bug, always end up very dead. He considers himself a hard, shrewd dealer in the products of crime—and nothing more.

As a result, the underworld mob held him in unspeakable awe. A few days ago a stool pigeon, in answering a policeman's questions, said of him:

"Gee, he's smart. If he had gone straight he would have made a wonderful Secretary of Labor."

There is no recent record of his having carried a gun himself. He shoots by proxy now. According to the etc.'s you hear when cops start farming at headquarters, the last time he—possibly it was his partner Gurrub—was near the scene of a crime was when their old pal, Curley Hoits, departed this life.

Curley, according to the story, had been sent by Lepke in 1931 to Europe with a large sum to buy narcotics. He spent only a fraction of this sum on the drugs and had pocketed the rest. When he returned he let the word get out that there were narcotics aboard, and these were seized, it being Curley's hope that the seizure would cover up his faithlessness. But Lepke read about the seizure in the papers, noted that the estimated value was far less than the sum he had given Curley, and he had one of his thugs bring him into his presence.



**Gurrah: Jake Schapiro.**

**Joe Adonis**

down Curley's throat. Now Curley, it is believed, lies in a cement block under the murky waters of the East River . . . another man who dared oppose the domination of the biggest businessman of the underworld

How Lepke's power has grown since the days of his childhood! He was born 42 years ago in Essex St., one of 11 children. His mother had had four children by a previous marriage and his father had had four, too, and so there was not always a great deal to eat.

His father had sold lumber in Russia, and, coming to this country in the 1890s because of the pogroms, had entered upon an industrious, productive, worthwhile business career. All of the children, with the exception of Lepke and one other, have pursued respectable lives, some of them distinguishing themselves in the professions. But within Lepke, it seems, was born a certain urge that demanded expression in original activities.

It was the same with other mobsters of this early part of the century whom he was to succeed. Monk Eastman—born Edward Osterman—was the son of a respectable restaurant owner in Williamsburg who set him up in a pet store, but he became one of the most vicious thugs of the generation. Big Jack Zelig came from kind and gentle people, but he sold death for anything from \$10 to \$100. The humiliated parents of murderous Little Augie had this alone engraved on his gravestone:

Jacob Orgen.  
Age 25 Years  
Little Angie was actually 33. But  
eight years before, at the time he  
first became a known criminal, his  
father had disowned him.

Evil was born in their hearts. The laxness of New York law enforcement at that time gave them the opportunity to apply their criminal instincts to actual deeds of destruction.

Refusing to go to high school, Lepke joined up with his pal in the neighborhood, Jacob Shapiro, whose mother declares he was born in

was born in Russia. Together they would cross the Williamsburg Bridge and torment the pushcart peddlers in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn.

That's where Shapiro got his nickname, Gurrah. The immigrant pushcart peddlers would plead with him, "Gurrah, here Jake," meaning "Get out of here, Jake." Whereupon Jake would smash one of them in the face, turn over his cart and give his place to another peddler from whom Lenke had received tribute.

They were in their early teens then—gaining experience, learning how far they could go, making underworld acquaintances that would help them in their rise to power. It was at that time, police believe, that they first met Joe Adonis, who was to become with them in a quarter-century one of the Big Six of crime and who, it is said, has aided Lepke in his present flight from justice.

The nickname, Lepke, by the way, is a misspelled variation of the Jewish word for Louis—Label. As a youngster, his parents called him Lebkaleh, meaning little Louis. But as he grew older, they called him Lepke. When a newspaperman first used the latter name he made it stick, and Lepke it has been ever since.

By the time he was 18 Lepke, with his devoted partner, Gurrath, had given up the comparatively unimportant business of beating up pushcart men, and like Jack Ruby and Diamond, had become a package thief. He would knock packages from wagons on the East Side and sell the contents to fences. In September of 1915 he was arrested for the first time for assault growing out of these activities, but the case was dismissed.

This was the beginning of a long series of thirteen arrests that preceded his federal indictments. In only three cases—once in Bridgeport, Conn., and twice before Judge Nott in General Sessions Court—was he found guilty and given sentences. Seven times he was discharged by magistrates in Manhattan.

These brushes with the law made Lepke cannv. taught him that it was

crimes while he remained far from the scene, impressed him with the necessity of organizing himself as a great corporation of crime. He had decided by 1920—when he was barely 21—that he would become the city's greatest underworld power.

All that was needed, he decided, was to be smart, unscrupulously ruthless—and to accumulate money. Plenty of money! With money he could defy anybody or anything—law, the underworld, the government itself.

He began by studying the gangster technique of the past. They were too gaudy, too spectacular, too obviously designed to invite personal glory. They always ended in destruction, and Lepke wanted to avoid destruction, for he, at least, most gangsters, a month before death.

There was Monk, the example. With a derby on one eye, a cat on either side of whisky on the table and Five Points world in a blasphemous manner happened to him? He murdered on the street, already been humiliated to pursue an honest man. There was Kid Twist, lieutenant. Strong as overpowering in his men, ruthless and domineering, held the territory from Chinatown in his grip. What happened to him? He was down following a term in

There was Jack Zeig, a partner, Jack Sirocco, a Trickster, a swagman, openly bragging about the controlled, they held the constant terror. And what here? They got into a room, themselves and before, they were dead.

No, Louis Buchalter would not make the same mistake as his predecessors. He would operate far away from the headlines, would stay on the fringe, behind the scenes and when the time came he would move in far

There was tremendous activity after the war and came increased labor union would take advantage of would control business by and influence labor by the violence. Monk Eastman gave him an inkling of this history far back as 1911, when he captured the rapscallions of the River. He acted as a

murdered; and later shook  
employers.

But, whereas Monk East got a few hundreds from pickers, Lepke would get into the big time industry. It was ripe. America, which sucked into the war, was sucked in by the rackets. The man who could take of this turn of history—become the Rockefeller Rackets.

He began by muscling leather business (which was worth tomorrow) and by then fed into the garment and fur businesses. All the time, however, he was keeping his eye on other racketeers who were doing likewise, to operate in industrial fields. He moved their palms in such a way that they, yet he never failed to take advantage of their bloody

In 1922 Kid Dropper  
suffered by the recently  
known as he was being  
from the Essex Street C  
Lepke sent regrets. But  
begin to take over the  
the Kid's gang and to re  
big-time basis.

In 1927 Little Augie was  
with Jack Diamond, w  
wounded as they were wal  
North St. Police said th  
the reorganized elemen  
Kid Dropper gang. L  
men were wanted. The  
headquarters, dress  
looking as innocent as p  
Little Augie? Of  
saw his friends. The  
showed at the time of  
went. And no Lepke an  
were discharged becau

[illegible]



# Pick Gang Probe Jury

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Crowl  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gurnea

## Giving Up Of Lepke Hinted

Witnesses  
Flock Here  
for Inquiry

For today's installment  
of "Lepke, the Leopard of  
the Rackets," see Page 12.

Carefully guarded from  
gang bullets by a special  
detail of G-men, witnesses  
were gathered here from  
points throughout the na-  
tion today as Federal au-  
thorities opened their  
spectacular offensive  
against organized crime.

Reports were current that  
racketeer Louis (Lepke) Bug-  
halter might voluntarily end  
the two-year flight, which led  
to the Federal probe, as the  
entire resources of the FBI and  
the city were put on his trail  
with these developments:

Selection of the Special Grand  
Jury which will investigate crime  
from coast to coast was begun in  
the Foley Square Federal Build-  
ing from a 50-man hand-picked  
panel.

The Board of Estimate pre-  
pared to boost the reward for  
fugitive Lepke from \$5,000 to  
\$25,000 "dead or alive."

### 55 POLICE ON JOB.

A squad of 55 detectives and  
patrolmen under Capt. Conrad  
Rothengast went on the Lepke  
assignment — 30 patrolmen in  
plainclothes guarding witnesses  
and 25 detectives hunting the  
fugitive mobster.

District Attorney Thomas E.  
Dewey's County Grand Jury con-  
tinued its efforts to cut off the  
revenue financing Lepke's flight  
by questioning officials of gar-  
ment and bakery firms reported  
to still paying gang tribute.

While the Federal anti-crime

60-150170  
sect. 4

CLIPPING FROM  
NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL -  
AMERICAN.

DATE. AUG 7 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.



rise was expected to unearth doctors, lawyers, business men and fellow racketeers who have aided Lepke to escape justice, U. S. attorney John T. Cahill stressed: "It will be broader than any one case or criminal."

#### ROUNDUP TO START.

From the mouths of scores of witnesses and from 500,000 pages of crime data carefully compiled by the G-men since 1937, the grand jury will strike at the harbors of such criminals as Lepke.

Doctors who perform plastic surgery on the faces of fleeing racketeers; the doctors who have treated Lepke for a serious kidney ailment, and business men who have supplied him with funds, though reluctantly, all face indictment.

Such lawyers as J. Richard (Dixie) Davis—the "Kid Mouthpiece" for the late Dutch Schultz—also will be the subject of inquiry.

#### CAPONE STATEMENT.

Statements by Davis and by Al Capone will be disclosed to the Federal Grand Jury.

Lepke's former gang partner, Jacob (Gurrah) Shapiro, now in Atlanta, may be brought to New York as a witness, Federal authorities admitted.

Aiding Cahill in the sweeping inquiry are Assistant U. S. Attorneys

Jerome Doyle, William Young and Matthies Correa.

With special powers conferred by Attorney-General Frank Murphy, the investigation will be centered in a courtroom in the Federal Building rather than one of the smaller rooms regularly used for Grand Juries, it was learned.

This step was taken because the Grand Jury will sit for long hours in its intensive inquiry and the courtrooms are better ventilated than the Grand Jury rooms for hot weather, a Federal official explained.

#### GATHER WITNESSES.

Witnesses in Cleveland, San Francisco, Chicago and other cities are being rounded up to testify to the "working agreement" between various underworld mobs under which such fugitives as Lepke are able to secure refuge, money and medical attention.

Lepke disappeared in July, 1937, after he had been freed in \$10,000 bail by former U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Martin T. Manton pending decision on his appeal from a Federal conviction as an anti-trust law violator.

Mr. Tolson.....  
 Mr. Nathan.....  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm.....  
 Mr. Clegg.....  
 Mr. Coffey.....  
 Mr. Egan.....  
 Mr. Glavin.....  
 Mr. Ladd.....  
 Mr. Nichols.....  
 Mr. Rosen.....  
 Mr. Tracy.....  
 Miss Gandy.....

## Special U. S. Jury Gets Crime Data

New York, Aug. 6 (AP).—Crime data from Federal agents in many parts of the country, including all available information on the most hunted man in America, Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, poured into New York tonight in what may develop into a record assault on the Nation's criminal syndicates.

60-150172  
 Sect. 4

AUG 17 1938

# Politicians, Business Men To Face

## Jury to Get Many Names Here Monday

### G-Men Aim to Destroy 'Underground Road' Helping Criminals

Evidence naming politicians, doctors, lawyers and business men, as well as petty crooks, among those who have harbored the fugitive Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, Public Enemy No. 1, is expected to be submitted to the special federal grand jury which Monday begins an investigation, nation-wide in scope, of the harboring of criminals.

The inquiry will center at first on Lepke's case because of his great notoriety, but the inquisitors' goal will be the destruction of the "underground railroad" by which hunted criminals are able to evade the law and, as in Lepke's case, continue their criminal operations.

#### Hunted Two Years

Lepke, hunted by state and federal agencies since he jumped bail July 7, 1937, is alleged to have continued to direct his vast racketeering interests from hiding and to be waging "a war of extermination" against former members of the gang and some represent members to silence potential witnesses against him.

The federal investigation, based on some 500,000 words of evidence and reports gathered by G-men in a two-year secret inquiry into the problem of harboring criminals in the United States, was announced by United States Attorney John T. Cahill.

Though the inquiry will center here, evidence involving persons in other parts of the country, especially such favored resorts of big-time crooks as Miami and Hot Springs, will be sent to the proper prosecutors for action.

#### Will Help Them.

The federal authorities in this district will give all secret aid possible to the prosecutors in other cities take action on the evidence furnished them, but their negligence will be publicized if they don't, it was said.

Mr. Cahill had no comment to make on reports that his office would seek the indictment, arrest and prosecution of every person who evidence indicates aided Lepke or his henchmen in his two-year flight from the law. Federal agents are said to have gathered evidence that Lepke criss-crossed the United States in his flight, apparently receiving aid wherever he went. This was interpreted as just another indication that Lepke heads a crime syndicate with agents throughout the country.

#### Dewey Pushes Drive.

Meanwhile District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey pressed his drive to dry up Lepke's financial and legal resources by attempting to persuade bonding companies that prisoners and material witnesses in the Lepke investigation were bad risks. Two of the companies which have furnished bail for such men reported afterward that, while they would not cancel present bonds, they would write future bonds in the Lepke case on only a full cash basis.

Mr. Dewey's efforts to have the Board of Estimate raise the reward for Lepke to \$25,000 received support from Borough President James J. Lyons of the Bronx.

Mr. Lyons said that he also would ask the Board of Estimate to post a separate reward of \$10,000 for the gunmen who murdered Irving Penn, music company executive, in the Bronx. Officials are convinced that Mr. Penn was slain by Lepke gunmen by mistake for Philip Orlovsky, a garment racket witness who lived in the same house.

Mr. Tolson.  
Mr. Nathan.  
Mr. E. A. Tamm.  
Mr. Clegg.  
Mr. Coffey.  
Mr. Glavin.  
Mr. Ladd.  
Mr. Nichols.  
Mr. Rosen.  
Mr. Tracy.  
Mr. Carson.  
Mr. Egan.  
Mr. Gurnea.  
Mr. Hendon.  
Mr. Pennington.  
Mr. Quinn.  
Mr. Nease.  
Miss Gandy.

Clipping from  
NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM

DATE: AUG 3 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

# WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

NEW YORK.--A NATIONWIDE CRIME DRIVE WHICH FEDERAL AGENTS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON FOR TWO YEARS, GOT UNDER WAY FORMALLY TODAY WHEN A SPECIAL FEDERAL GRAND JURY WAS SWORN IN TO EXAMINE WITNESSES AND EVIDENCE WHICH WAS GATHERED IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

THE SPECIAL GRAND JURY WAS CHOSEN FOR ITS EXTRAORDINARY TASK FROM A PANEL OF 50. IT WILL NOT ONLY HEAR EVIDENCE AGAINST METROPOLITAN CRIMINALS BUT AGAINST THOSE IN VARIOUS OTHER STATES AND INFORMATION WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO LOCAL PROSECUTORS FOR WHAT THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS WILL BE SWIFT FOLLOW-UP ACTION.

THE PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE IN NEW YORK'S FEDERAL BUILDING BEGAN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE JURY WAS SWORN IN.

THE FIRST CASE CALLED UP WAS THAT OF THE FUGITIVE LOUIS (LEPKE) BUCHALTER, \$1,000,000 INDUSTRIAL RACKETEER.

BUCHALTER IS SUSPECTED OF TRYING TO KILL ALL POSSIBLE WITNESSES AGAINST

60-15017A

# F.B.I. Hunts Lepke in New York Area

## City to Boost Reward for Him To \$25,000

The nation's resurgent, spectacular war on crime is centered here today.

While the U. S. Attorney John T. Cahill began spreading before a special Grand Jury the sagas of a thousand criminals in all quarters of the country, New York's Board of Estimate was expected to approve

*The first of a series of articles on Louis (Lepke) Buchalter's exploits and the hunt for him appears on Page 11.*

an additional \$25,000 reward for the capture of Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, fugitive kingpin racketeer.

At the same time federal agents under the direction of J. Edgar Hoover, concentrated their efforts to turn up" Lepke here.

There appeared to be little likelihood of any slip-up in boosting the reward for Lepke's arrest.

### \$35,000 Offered.

The \$25,000 boost will bring the ante on Lepke to \$35,000—dead or alive. Both the city and federal governments have already put up \$5,000 each.

The special federal Grand Jury was drawn this morning from a panel of fifty and immediately set about hearing testimony from the several score witnesses.

Mathias F. Correa, chief assistant to Mr. Cahill, and Jerome Doyle and William Young, assistant United States Attorneys, presented additional material from the nearly half million pages of a report which took the Federal Bureau of Investigation nearly two years to prepare.

### Doctors Warned.

Special emphasis will be placed on securing indictments of those who have for the past two years harbored Lepke, considered the "million dollar fugitive," and other racketeers who are on the lam.

The government has made it clear that doctors who treat Lepke for his illnesses—and he is known to be suffering from kidney and rheumatic troubles—may face long penitentiary terms.

All authorities denied rumors yesterday that Lepke had been captured.



There is a hitherto unpublished picture of Louis Lepke Buchalter, whose crime empire is to be studied by new Federal Grand Jury today.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nathan	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Crowl	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	

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sect. 4

Clipping from  
NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM

DATE: AUG 7 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

# 'Who's Who' of Crime Given Jury as U. S. Opens Biggest Drive

**Buchalter First on List  
In War to Break Up Whole  
Underworld System**

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Aug. 7.—The Nation's greatest assault on organized crime, delving into underworld terrorism in half a dozen major cities, opened today with the presentation of a 500,000-word "encyclopedia of crime" before a special Federal grand jury.

Thirty patrolmen were assigned to guard witnesses in the sweeping investigation.

Dominated by the shadowy figure of Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, 42, beady-eyed Manhattan racketeer and will-o'-the-wisp target of an intensive "dead or alive" manhunt, the inquiry was described by Attorney General Frank Murphy as the outgrowth of secret, concerted action by Federal agents for several months.

Simultaneous offensives, Mr. Murphy said, will be launched in Chicago, New Orleans, Boston and other key centers, perhaps including Miami, Philadelphia and San Francisco.

"One of the major objectives will be to get at corruption and crime in politics," the Attorney General added.

## Buchalter Case First.

Although United States Attorney John T. Cahill, directing the Nation-wide anti-crime war through a central "clearing house" here, said the inquiry was "broader than any case or criminal," it was known the grand jury would quickly direct its attention to the Buchalter case.

A fugitive for two years, sought both in this country and abroad at a cost of \$250,000 a year, "Lepke" is wanted as the alleged master mind in narcotics operations, in various industrial rackets and in a series of mouth-silencing murders of witnesses against him.

Only two weeks ago, a law-abiding music publishing official who lived quietly in the Bronx with his wife and two children, was mowed down by gunmen as he walked to the subway—apparently in mistake for a witness against "Lepke." District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey has blamed four other murders on Buchalter's "war of extermination" against witnesses.

## Harboring to Be Attacked.

Federal authorities said their far-flung search for the former racket overload indicated he had been protected by a criminal underground railway—such as was used in spirit-ing runaway slaves out of the South in the Civil War—which enabled him to find shelter almost anywhere.

"This investigation particularly strikes at harboring criminals," Mr. Cahill remarked, "because that is the basis of the criminal system. Organized crime cannot endure when it is deprived of its implements."

The Federal prosecutor said witnesses from the Southwest, Middle West and Pacific Coast would be called before the grand jury to give direct evidence in support of the voluminous "crime encyclopedia" compiled by G-men, which reportedly chronicles an astonishing series of murders, kidnappings, underworld hideaways and secret "crime trust"

agreements for the division of territories and racket loot.

Federal agents said the record comprises a "Crime Who's Who," with names, dates and complete information on rackets and gangsters in every State.

Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Nathan.....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Coffey.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Glavin.....  
Mr. Ladd.....  
Mr. Nichols.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Mr. Sears.....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....  
Mr. Tracy.....

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sect. 4

# Hunt Lepke's 'Crime Angel'

The most hunted man in America, Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, took second place yesterday as G-Men and District Attorney Dewey's detectives swerved their manhunt toward establishment of the identity of "the man upstairs" in the nationwide crime syndicate of which Lepke is but a cog.

An "angel of crime" who has money, power and respectability as his surface protections, is believed to be, in the theatrical sense, the "angel" who has guided the racketeers for years.

"Find the man who arranged bail for Lepke and Gurrah (Jacob Shapiro) and you will find Lepke," was the order as the operatives of the two law enforcement agencies started a nutcracker drive they hope will crack down on the No. 1 Public Enemy and his shadowy overlord and as a special Federal Grand Jury was being convened here today to study racketeering in all its forms.

## Dewey Pleaded

Lepke and Gurrah, partners in racketeering since the early days, were released in bail by former Federal Circuit Judge Martin T. Manton over the protests of Prosecutor Dewey and Brooklyn's special prosecutor, Assistant Attorney General Amen. Dewey personally pleaded with Judge Manton not to release the thugs. Bail was provided and both fled, Gurrah subsequently surrendering and taking a sentence in the Federal Prison at Atlanta.

It was emphatically pointed out that the man sought — the poster of the bond — is not a bondsman nor a lawyer.

Also being sought yesterday, not

as a suspect but for information only, was a wealthy dress manufacturer who for four years paid the Lepke-Gurrah combine \$25,000 a year for protection and for part of the time lived in the same apartment house with Lepke in Central Park W.

A former high Federal judicial officer is said to have obtained a \$25,000 loan from him.

Gurrah is being brought back from Atlanta to testify before the Federal Grand Jury which meets this morning. Contrary to reports, however, he is doing no talking at this time. Whether he will when he is taken before the jury is a matter of doubt. Many men have died for talking.

## Not Forgotten

Lepke is not a forgotten man, however. At the printing department of the New York Police Department preparations have been made to turn out one million circulars offering rewards for his arrest as soon as the Board of Estimate in meeting today will have approved in whole or in part District Attorney Dewey's request for appropriation upward of \$30,000.

The Lindbergh kidnaping refused the printing of only 20,000 circulars.

It is not disclosed whether Prosecutor Dewey's "dead" or

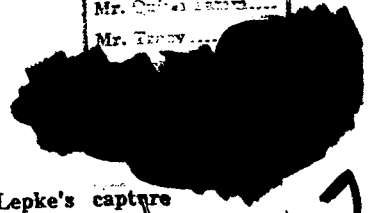
alive" offer for Lepke's capture will be included in the announcement.

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Board of Investigation, was reported to be at the Federal Building yesterday, but this could not be ascertained. Questioners were barred from the upper floors of the building where the FBI offices are situated.

Crime data poured into the building from all parts of the country for use of the special Grand Jury in the preparation of an encyclopedia of crime and criminals. The records will be made available to all communities.

While there is a decided race of between the Dewey and Hoover outfits to be the first to nab Lepke and his "boss" the two agencies are working hand in glove.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Gandy	



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# How the Fur Union Smashed Lepke-Gurrah Gangland Grip in the Industry

By Esther Cantor

The man who put the finger on Jacob "Gurrah" Shapiro, partner of No. 1 racketeer Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, yesterday described how his union broke the back of the industrial gangsters in the fur industry.

Irving Potash, manager of the Furriers Joint Council, whose testimony put Gurrah behind closed bars, related how the fur workers employed by the open shoppers while law-enforcement agencies ignored the murders, sluggings and illegal trade combinations.

It was in federal court in October, 1936, that Potash testified on the link between the Lepke-Gurrah gang. The union leader was to meet the head of the bosses' association, a Samul Mittleman. Mittleman appeared with Gurrah. When Potash declared that he would "have nothing to do" with Gurrah, the racketeer warned him:

"Potash, you will have to deal with me, whether you like it or not."

But the left wing fur union officials not only didn't deal with the Lepke-Gurrah gang but broke their attempts to gain a hold on the industry!

Potash, continuing his testimony, described a conversation with employers following the brutal murder of Morris Langer, union official. The bosses told him:

"You know that in back of this association are Gurrah and Lepke and they're not playing with toys." The furriers taught the racketeers that their union and decent working conditions also aren't toys.

The story assumes added importance as the nation-wide hunt for Lepke is on, while government witnesses are murdered, and some racketeers continue to flourish under the eyes of District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey.

The indictment of Lepke and Gurrah by the federal government reads like the indictment against these racketeers by the fur workers themselves, before they could force the law-enforcement agencies to step in.

The indictment pending against them by Dewey's office, still trying to catch up with the "elusive" Lepke, took a valuable lead from the charges made by the fur workers in their successful fight against the racketeers.

## RACKETEER PAL

Gurrah, back in the early '20s, had been a partner of "Little Augie." The partner-to-be of Lepke had gone far from the days down on the East Side when he was muscling into the racket by offering "protection" to poor peddlers.

The peddlers who refused to pay for "protection" would be forced to leave the streets. Jacob Shapiro's favorite order to the poor men was "get out of here." When slurred sounded like "gurrah a here," from which he obtained his name.

With Little Augie, he moved into the painters racket, mapping out "spheres of influence" and "protective zones" for willing bosses who paid through the nose in order to break all attempts at unionization.

Pickers who attempted to march before "protected" shops were beaten up. Strikers were terrorized. Wages were low. Meanwhile, Little Augie was killed and there are those who say it was an "inside" job to permit Gurrah to become undisputed boss.

Gurrah, the strong-arm man, found a good partner in Lepke, the "brains" of the racket. Lepke had a quick rise in gangland. They formed a "trust," amalgamating a number of rackets.

They were to find good pickings which were soon to run into the millions from the city's garment industry.

The fur industry was a particularly juicy morsel they sought to control. From 1925 to 1928, Lepke-Gurrah gangsters battled with fur workers in an effort to gain control of the industry.

The fur union, however, disregarded the "protected" shops and struck whenever union conditions were being ignored. Pickers were being slugged, strikers beaten, appeals to law-enforcement agencies went ignored, but the workers continued to battle the gangsters.

Potash told of the "war home" demonstration staged by the workers during the 1927 fur strike. The union workers had succeeded in having locked up a whole car of portillas who cruised the fur district armed with iron bars.

The racketeers would hide in hallways to blackjack pickets. Workers were in hospitals. But complaints to the district attorney's office and police were ignored.

To protect the skulls of the workers from the constantly descending iron bars wielded by gangsters, immune from arrest, the picket wore war helmets.

In 1928, Gurrah came into the union headquarters, issuing a personal warning to Potash "to lay off the protected shops." The racketeer was thrown out of the union offices badly.

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Crowl .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Lawler .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Sears .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....



The bold union tactics finally forced Lepke and Gurrah to look for other methods to control the fur industry. It was bruited about at the time, that they quit open acts of violence also as a face-saving gesture, fearful that the successful licks imposed by the fur workers would provide fruitful lessons to other garment workers suffering under the plague of the boss-racketeer combination.

But with the continued division among the workers, the two were back again, branching out to establish a monopoly in the fur industry.

There were daily fights in the fur market between the workers and the racketeers. Lepke and Gurrah established an elaborate machinery for price fixing, keeping the union out, and making millions by offering bosses, anxious to pay starvation wages, "protection."

They saw their meat in the fur dressing industry.

Morris Langer, union leader, was then conducting an organizing drive against these sweat shop conditions. A strike was in progress against the Hollander firm, which only recently capitulated to the union.

A striker, Natalie Bollero, 24 years old, was murdered. The law-enforcement agencies did nothing. Langer refused to give up to the racketeers. The strike continued.

#### MURDER UNION LEADER

Langer was bombed, killed on March 22. His murderer has never been apprehended.

A month later, the union office was raided, by gangsters with guns, iron bars, and other implements used by the obviously protected racketeers, who themselves were past masters of the art of giving "protection" against union conditions.

Two persons were killed, including Harry Goldfried, a union member. About 50 persons were wounded.

Ben Gold, now president of the International Fur and Leather Workers Union, CIO, told an



IRVING POTASH

appeal to the public, exposing the racketeers and their backers and revealing the cynical disregard of the police.

"Lepke and Gurrah are leaders of a gang of cut throats, boot-leggers, opium smugglers, murderers and thieves," Gold charged in 1933.

Gold's explanation then of the aims of the racketeers was similar to that made by the federal government in its case against Lepke and Gurrah.

"The aims of the racket," he said, "were:

"1—To force all bosses to become members and pay dues to the Fur Factors Dressing Corp., controlled by the racketeers.

"2—The racketeers were to prevent new shops from coming into existence.

"3—To drive out of business a number of firms who refused to join the racket.

"4—The dealers of the racket decided on how many 'units' every shop was permitted to make. Of course, the leaders of the racket were assigned to more work, which meant more profits for themselves. The unimportant bosses, the rank and filers, had to be content with less business. They had no other way. They knew what rebellion against their racketeer leaders would mean."

#### GOLD EXPOSES RACKETS

Gold described the various methods for driving the firms out of business or forcing them into the racket.

"They destroyed shops, threw bombs, took workers out on 'strike,' threw acid in the faces of their competitors and used other such 'civilized' methods.

"It all depended on how serious the breach was, which one or another manufacturer committed against the racket."

The union leader described how the workers suffered under the racket domination. Now Lepke and Gurrah spread out to take over the Protective Fur Rabbit Dressing Association, which would mean that they would be able to entrench their brutal power and spread their control over the entire fur trade, becoming the rulers over the workers.

But here, Gold continued, "the murderers and racketeers encountered unforeseen difficulties."

the fur workers, under left wing leadership.

At the trial, the charges made earlier by the union leaders were confirmed. The racketeers tried to force Langer to call strikes in three union plants in Gloversville, so that the Lepke-Gurrah "protection" could be offered. Langer refused.

Langer was murdered.

Unable to break the union or the will of the workers to maintain decent working conditions, the employers resorted to more open use of Lepke and Gurrah, telling the union officials flatly that the racketeers represented the bosses.

Potash, going to meet an employer for a conference, was confronted with Gurrah and told that Gurrah represented the employers.

Potash refused to discuss union conditions with Gurrah.

The fur union office was raided.

At the trial, the government was able to show that the raid was planned by the Lepke-Gurrah gang, but it has never been followed up.

Potash pointed out yesterday that while the then Police Commissioner Mulrooney was describing fur union leader Jack Schneider as active in "industrial racketeering," Schneider was fighting the Lepke-Gurrah gang, the industrial racketeers who flourished under Mulrooney. Mulrooney's "description" was recently revived by Deputy's office in the trial of Schneider for alleged coercion.

#### GOLD ISSUES CHALLENGE

From 1927 to 1934, the fur district was like a "battlefield," Potash said. "Scores of strikers were in the hospital, but only workers and union leaders were arrested.

After the raid, Gold issued his public challenge to the authorities giving names, activities, dates and descriptions of how the racket worked.

As a result, the federal government stepped in and indicted the racketeers and racketeering employers.

But the indictment came after the union itself had licked the racketeers. "Before the authorities stepped in, we licked the Lepke-Gurrah gang physically and prac-

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many drove them out of the fur district," Potash said.

In the fight against them and their employer-allies, he continued, the union succeeded in organizing the dressing and dyeing industry, gaining improved conditions for the workers.

When the trial came in 1936, the fear instilled by the racketeers created a cynical attitude. Everyone was saying that the two would go scot free, that no one would dare to identify them.

#### POTASH PUTS GURRAH ON SPOT

But Potash put the finger on Gurrah, revealing his connections with the bosses racketeering association. So did Sam Burt, manager of the Joint Board of Fur Dressers and Dyers.

It was Potash's testimony, substantiated by Burt, which sent Gurrah to jail. Both Lepke and Gurrah were convicted. But the trial was only on federal offenses. The murders, racketeering combinations in the city alone, the violence committed during the period, had to be dealt with locally.

Meanwhile, both were free on bail, pending appeals, in sharp contrast to the stubborn opposition of Dewey's office to place bail for Schneider, convicted of a minor offense on trumped-up charges.

The two industrial racketeers slipped through the fingers of the police, but they didn't slip through the fingers of the fur workers. Lepke's conviction was reversed, he disappeared as Dewey was looking for him.

It was ex-federal Judge Manton, recently found guilty of taking bribes, who permitted them to escape by giving these notorious gangsters ridiculously low bail pending appeal.

Gurrah finally gave himself up but Lepke is still at large, and is said to be conducting his racketeering empire under the nose of prosecuting authorities. But, thanks to the union not in the fur industry.

The fur workers forthright attack on the racketeers, licking them before any government agency bothered to step in, Potash declared, is the real answer to recent attempts to link unions with racketeering.

DATE

AUG 2 - 1939

# 'The Leopard' Fleeing from 119-Yr. Term

## Murder, Dope and Extortion His 'Genius,' Study of Life Discloses

By GEORGE CARROLL.

Who is Lepke, America's No. 1 Racketeer?

To save his uncaught skin, men are being murdered on the streets of New York. Yet to the public, he has been only a name; for that matter, maybe a myth.

Once he and Jacob (Gurrah) Shapiro, his blustering, loud-mouthed partner, ruled the garment field, New York's biggest industry, by terror, each extorting an estimated \$2,000,000 yearly.

For two years now Lepke (Louis Buchalter) has been a fugitive from extortion, drug and anti-trust indictments that carry a total penalty of 119 years. Gurrah gave up and is serving a 5-year term.

### LIFE OF LEPKE BARED.

With hitherto unpublished data from the files of the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, the New York Journal and American today begins publication of the first fully rounded story of Lepke, his life and works.

The portrait that emerges from all this mass of information and from independent data gathered by New York Journal and American reporters is that of:

### 'LEPKE, LEOPARD OF THE RACKETS.'

(In habit the leopard is ferocious, bloodthirsty and cunning. It obtains its prey either by springing upon it from ambush, frequently the bough of a tree) or by stealthy stalk. It will eat any animal it can overcome, being especially fond of dogs. (Encyclopaedia Britannica.)

### LIVED AMONG MURDERS.

Lepke the Leopard has lived much of his 42 years amongst murders.

He and Gurrah were arrested far back on Oct. 15, 1927, in the slaughter of Jacob (Little Augie) Orgen, one of New York's first celebrated industrial racketeers. They beat the rap and took over Little Augie's unlawful business.

From then on Lepke rose to become kingpin in his sector of the criminal realm, supposedly enduring Gurrah for what he was worth, and because he had a genuine liking for him.

Murder has even doubled back on murder, for among the four witnesses or potential witnesses against Lepke who have been slain in the past two years was Louis Cohen, who eradicated the notorious Nathan (Kid Dropper) Kaplan in 1923, served his prison sentence and was himself exterminated last Jan. 28 down on the same Lower East Side where Lepke first won his renown.

### INGS FROM AMBUS

Leopard springs from ambush! Where he presently none knows. But men wait for him in drop regular now in Brooklyn, another Bronx, another somewhere.

The Lower East Side of Manhattan where Lepke was born, the earliest recollect him as a lad of 12 peddling oranges, bananas and from a push cart.

An innocent enough and crafty tradesman he was though today the people who of his childhood pale a trifle hesitate when they speak of Delancey, Henry and Madis.

### NAMES ARE FEARED.

For in the years that have elapsed mere mention of the "Lepke and Gurrah" demoralized the great garment industry, from big-time manufacturer to lowly union stitcher.

Mention of those names meant: "Pay up or else—"

Neither the FBI, District Attorney Dewey nor the police profess to know much about Lepke's antecedents. One story has it that his father settled in Colorado, came to New York City before Lepke was born. That's only a story.

But police know Lepke was born in a tenement at 88 Essex st. The building is razed now and in its place is being built a market center.

His earliest criminal record, Sept. 2, 1915, states he was living

at 763 Henry st. when he was arrested as a juvenile delinquent. The details of that earliest fall from grace are so unimportant they do not even appear in police records. He got off, as he has done so many times since, for he has been arrested 18 times but served time only thrice.

The Workers Education Center of Henry Street Settlement now occupies the 5-story red brick tenement at the address whence the Leopard started his life of crime. The Settlement endeavors to steer another generation of East Side youngsters from his footsteps.

"All we know about Lepke is what we read in the papers," they say there now at No. 263.

### SERVED 2 TERMS.

For a while after his first offense, the young Leopard lived in Brooklyn. But 1921 found him back on the Lower East Side again at 82 Madison st. He had been to Sing Sing twice in the intervening time.

The Madison st. address is a stone's throw from the old Tammany clubhouse of the first A. D., near where many a skull was cracked in bygone battles of the ballot.

But what sort of individual is this Lepke? The Leopard who climbed the throne of racket and by law of tang and claw

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Nathan  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Crowl  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Lawler  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sears  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

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**\$35,000**

## Reward Offered for Clues to Lepke

If you possess any information concerning the whereabouts of Louis Buchalter (Lepke, the Leopard of the Rackets), telephone any of the following numbers:

New York City Police Headquarters, SPing 7-3100.

Federal Bureau of Investigation, REctor 2-3520.

District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey, CAnal 6-5700.

City Editor, New York Journal and American, DRy Dock 4-8000.

Your information will be treated confidentially, and after Monday, rewards totaling \$35,000 will be paid for Buchalter's capture—dead or alive. The City Editor of this newspaper will see that any information concerning this man is relayed to the proper authorities.

of intimates. It wasn't a nice one. Lepke was like that.

### DEVOTION TO STEP-SON.

Lepke's devotion to his step-son (the youth has attended select military schools, travels and lacks not for money) is reminiscent of the love another famous New York racketeer bore for a son of his own—Waxey Gordon, the beer baron, now winding up an 11-year income tax sentence to the Federal Penitentiary or, possibly, already paroled.

One of the great human interest stories of the Prohibition Era was enacted in an uptown funeral parlor the afternoon that the beer baron, vortex of so many murderous booze wars, came from prison to weep at the coffin of his son, Teddy, 19, killed in an automobile accident.

### KEPT LOOT OUT OF BANKS.

The brand of industrial extortion which bears the Lepke-Gurrah trademark is credited with yielding each \$2,000,000 yearly.

But no evidence has been uncovered by Dewey that the pair trusted their loot to banks.

"How did Lepke keep his money?" the FBI official who has made a particular study of the case was asked.

"That is something we would rather not answer," he said, with a marked reticence in marked contrast to his generosity with personal details about Public Enemy No. 1.

Thus it is anyone's guess as to whether J. Edgar Hoover's G-Men have unearthed bank or brokerage accounts that belong to the Leopard.

### LEPKE OWN BANKER.

Dewey's investigators lean to the theory he served as his own banker after the manner of Dutch Schultz. He once displayed

of his hideaway apartment, and explained:

"This is where I keep my key."

either Hoover's or Dewey's agents have dug up anyone who has seen Lepke with some such strongbox, they are keeping it as secret as the Leopard keeps his current hiding place.

### CLUES TO HIDEAWAY.

Should a man set out to win the "dead or alive" award on Lepke's head where should he look?

There are a few authoritative hints which may be offered here:

The Leopard restricts himself to kosher food. He might be that melancholy fellow with the long nose and somber eyes at a table in your favorite kosher restaurant.

The Leopard is a lover of the legitimate theatre, not musical comedies but the high brow shows. Perhaps in the darkened seat next you—

### PRACTICES GOLF SHOTS.

The Leopard and his intimates went in for golf, but usually only to the extent of driving practice, letting the caddies retrieve their shots and obtain the real exercise. Perhaps that gentleman over on the practice tee—

The Leopard loves the race track and betting on the ponies, but the chances are 1000-to-1 against your seeing him at Saratoga this week or at any other tracks this side of the Mississippi. Too dangerous.

### A PINOCHLE FIEND.

Pinochle is Lepke's vice. For years he has played it hour after hour with his cronies. Like Dutch Schultz again.

The Dutchman sat up whole days and nights at pinochle with a pair of his fellow lamsters when for nearly two years, the town was being turned upside down for him—and Dutch was secreted in an apartment at Riverside dr. and 89th st.

When, and if, the Leopard is snared, will it develop that he, too, chose New York, with its seven-odd million people, as the safest jungle in which to hide out?

Do old pinochle players play another game the same?

(Follow this fascinating story in tomorrow's New York Journal and American—the story of "LEPKE, THE LEOPARD OF THE RACKETS.")

### FBI TALKS LEOPARD.

"He gives his orders quietly, then forgets about them. But God help the gent who doesn't carry out those orders!" says a ranking FBI official who has closely studied Lepke, the man, for the sole purpose of ambushing the ambusher.

In two sentences, you have a penetrating insight into the methods of No. 46043 in the Rogues Gallery of the New York City Police and No. 21156 in the Gallery of the FBI.

That's the hard side.

Then one learns the apple of the Leopard's eye is his adopted son, Harold, now 18, the age when his foster father got off on the wrong foot in the Fall of 1915.

### MARRIED A WIDOW.

That's the soft side.

The Leopard has no children of his own. His wife, Betty, was a widow, shifting for herself and her boy, Harold, when Lepke married her. Mrs. Buchalter is a stoutish matron who has a novelty shop on Madison ave.

Recently, according to G-Men, she called upon a surgeon to improve her contour. The Leopard, they said, had had an affectionate nickname for Betty Buchalter which he used to call her in

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CLIPPING FROM RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH

DATE: 8-5-39

FORWARDED BY RICHMOND FIELD DIVISION

## 'Lepke' Buchalter Surrenders to Hoover, Ending Nationwide Search for Fugitive

NEW YORK, (AP)—The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced yesterday that Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, industrial racketeer, had surrendered to J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director.

Hoover, in New York for the past two and one-half weeks working on the "Lepke" case, refused to give details as to where Lepke was taken, or how, but said the surrender was to him personally.

"He told me he had never left the Borough of Manhattan," Hoover said.

"He surrendered. There was no money promised or paid by the FBI. We made him no promises of immunity or anything else."

Lepke, 42, has been the subject of a nation-wide search by Federal, city and New York State authorities and a price of \$50,000—\$25,000 by the city and \$25,000

by the FBI—had been placed on his head. the details of Lepke's ment.

### Fugitive For Two Years

He had been a fugitive for two years after running out on \$10,000 bail. He is wanted by Federal authorities on narcotics and anti-trust indictments and by the city in connection with racketeering in the garment, fur and bakery businesses.

District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey of New York County, in stepping up the search for him several weeks ago, called the short, flatnosed fugitive the "most dangerous industrial racketeer in America."

Hoover said Lepke had been placed "in a detention cell," but he did not say where.

The FBI head left a conference with reporters to telephone Attorney-General Frank Murphy, who Hoover said would arrange

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Sears .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Gurnea .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Sears .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
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# LEPKE SEARCH STARTS DRIVE ON CRIMINALS

## Underworld Warned to Turn Racketeer Over to FBI

By EARL SPARLING

A national roundup of every person suspected of harboring criminals will be started next week in the Federal hunt to find Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, it was learned today at United States Attorney John T. Cahill's office.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has turned over eighty-six volumes of information on such persons, each volume containing some 2,000 pages.

A special Grand Jury has been meeting in the Federal Building for the last two weeks and will reconvene Monday to begin taking evidence against such persons.

### Warning to Underworld

The move was interpreted as a drastic warning that unless Lepke, most wanted gangster in the country, is turned in, many others will find themselves in trouble.

Simultaneously with the news from the Federal Building District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey served warning on bonding companies that it would no longer be healthy to furnish bail for members of the Lepke mob. He called the Lepke mobsters a "bad risk."

No bond will be accepted without full cash collateral, he announced.

The FBI has been working on the vast compilation of suspected persons since July, 1937. The list contains not only known criminals but doctors, lawyers, business men, etc.

The roundup, starting here, will spread to the rest of the nation. Cahill will be aided here by two special assistants sworn in for the task—William M. Young, brought from the Federal Narcotics Bureau, and Jerome Doyle, former G-man. Doyle worked on the John Dillan-

ger and Baby Face Nelson cases and has intimate knowledge of the crime system in the Mid West and on the West Coast.

United States Attorney General Frank Murphy conferred with Cahill in launching the Government's newest and most implemented drive against crime.

Myron, Guernsey, FBI inspector who is co-ordinating the national search for Lepke, is in New York and has had almost daily conversations with Cahill.

### 3 Lepke Indictments

Lepke, missing for the last two years, is under three indictments and is wanted by District Attorney Dewey just as badly as by the Federal Government.

The G-men have proof, it was indicated, that the harboring of criminals is an organized and nationwide business.

Their exhaustive compilation of information was personally turned over to Cahill last night by Hoover.

The Government will seek indictments not only on straight harboring, but on such sidelines as channels for sending money to criminals in hiding. That was stated today to be a Federal crime.

The investigators will also invoke a Federal law, passed after the Lindbergh kidnaping, which makes it a Federal crime for a criminal to cross a State line.

### Dewey Confirms With Firms

Dewey made his announcement at a meeting with representatives of four big casualty companies, the Peerless, United States Fidelity and Guarantee, Continental Casualty and National Surety.

Robert Nugent, head of the bail bond department of the Peerless Company, said after the meeting: "I can tell you that for myself I would not feel like writing bonds for any one connected with the Lepke case, unless they furnished full collateral."

His company has bonds on two, (David Horn (\$35,000) and Paul Berger (\$15,000). Asked if these bonds would be canceled, he said, "No, both are under police guard and are carrying on businesses in New York."

It was Nugent's company that held the bag for \$20,000 when Leon Scharf and his wife, important witnesses, disappeared. Both are believed to have been murdered.

In all seven material witnesses are out on bail.

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Nathan ✓  
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Ladd ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

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expects will be swift follow up action.

Three assistant U. S. attorneys, Mathis Correa, Jerome Doyle and William Young, will present evidence to the grand jury and question witnesses.

The special grand jury will inquire particularly into the manner in which Lepke has avoided capture since he jumped his \$10,000 bail bond two years ago. A report that an underworld organization exists for the protection of criminals fleeing from one jurisdiction to another will be carefully investigated.

#### **Fugitive Ailing**

Lepke is known to be ill of a kidney ailment—how ill is and has been for some time a subject of speculation—and the Federal authorities are said to have learned that he received shelter and medical treatment in at least six States.

Physicians and attorneys he may have consulted in his flight will be subpoenaed, it was said. The Government has made it clear that it intends to seek punishment of all persons who have harbored Lepke under sections of the Lindbergh Law which were invoked in the John Dillinger and Bremer kidnap cases.

The determination of the city authorities to aid to the fullest extent possible in the search for Lepke was evidenced by the prompt action of the Board of Estimate, which met for the first time at the Summer City Hall at the Worlds Fair with Mayor LaGuardia presiding.

The Mayor in casting his vote for the increased reward expressed himself as anxious to see Lepke caught quickly.

The 8-State alarm sent out for

Zennereich, the bag-man, carried his description.

This told that he has heavy dark features, with thick lips, and that he generally scowls when he talks. He is 41, is 5 ft., 11 inches tall, weighs 200 pounds, and walks with a swagger. He married the widow of Hyman Holtz described by Dewey's office as a former partner in the Lepke-Gurrah combination.

Dewey's office revealed yesterday that Zennereich is one of five men who were indicted with the 16 others previously named with Lepke, but whose names were not made public until yesterday.

detectives know where the honeymooning couple went after their secretive marriage a short time before noon Sunday in the office of Attorney Ralph A. Geffen in Nyack.

As to why the ceremony was arranged by Geffen and performed in his office... "that was a friendly gesture to someone in Dewey's office... don't ask for names."

Your Uncle Nick Kenny, airwave director par excellence, writes for his radio fans in the Daily Mirror.

# Forced Furriers to Yield

## Recalcitrant Gives In After Losing an Eye

By GEORGE CARROLL.

Eye in the eye got results for Lepke and Gurrach, pals of Sing Sing days, when they sank their hooks into the \$85,000,000 fancy fur dressing industry.

In at least one instance, they achieved a slight paraphrase of the old law: "An Eye for an Eye" and switched it to read:

"An Eye for \$200,000."

Their acid-throwers did it for them.

Not until his right eyeball was burned out with acid, emptied over him as he stepped into his automobile, did old Julius Bernfeld accept "protection" from Louis (Lepke the Leopard) Buchalter, the nation's No. 1 Fugitive, and Jacob (Gurrach Jake) Shapiro, now in the government's Atlanta Penitentiary.

The "protection"—he fought it off courageously until he lost half his sight—cost Bernfeld's firm around \$200,000 annually.

Records of United States Court recount the losing struggle which the fur house of Brickner & Bernfeld, 337 Seventh ave., waged against the Leopard and Gurrach Jake.

But Brickner & Bernfeld didn't give graciously, didn't join the gangsters' organization until the acid baths started coming a trifle too regularly, with a slugging thrown in for good measure.

"You can't scare us," old Julius insisted at each visit from Sam Mittelman, president of the racket-fronting Protective Fur Dressers Corp. and catspaw for the Leopard and Gurrach.

Words failing to impress old Julius, it was decided by the rulers of the P. F. D. C. to prod him up.

## Protects Daughter From Acid Bath

As Bernfeld, driving with his daughter on Fifth ave., halted for a red light, a gangster stepped from the curb and hurled a bottle of acid into the machine. The old furrier flung his arm about his daughter. Their bodies and clothing were splashed with the stuff, yet not seriously.

Brickner & Bernfeld were scared but they didn't surrender.

A few weeks later as Bernfeld was walking in West End ave. an attacker crowned him with a length of lead pipe. The old furrier wound up in Roosevelt Hospital, where they sewed his wound with nine stitches.

The clincher came about a month after the last half of the firm left the hospital with his patched scalp.

Full into his face, an acid-thrower flung a couple of quarts of fiery, corrosive stuff. Choking, howling with agony, old man Bernfeld thought his end had come. It very nearly had.

## Bernfeld Loses Eye, Scarred for Life

Back to the hospital they took him. He didn't die. But the sight of his right eye was gone and his face was scarred permanently.

Brickner & Bernfeld signed up with the F. D. P. C., Lepke & Gurrach's Crime, Inc.

Joseph Storff, credit manager for Brickner & Bernfeld, enlightened Judge Knox and the jurors further:

"After Mr. Bernfeld was blinded we sent the Fur Dress-



LOUIS LEPKE  
A Partner in "Crime, Inc."

ers Protective Corporation over 1,000,000 skins a month.

"We could have had this work done just as well or better elsewhere at 5 cents a skin. Now we had to pay 7 cents and up. For just one month alone, this cost us \$20,000 extra."

## Acid Treatment For Union Officials

Recalcitrant union officials likewise suffered the acid treatment. In a memorandum from the bench, Judge Knox highlighted the case of one such official, Harry Goodman, whose hospital bills totaled \$8,500.

In refusing to reduce to probation 10-month jail terms against three unionist co-defendants of Lepke and Gurrach—Pietro Lucchi, Morris Reiss and Isaac Hertzberg—the court observed:

"To be sure, there is no evidence that Lucchi, Reiss or Hertzberg personally assaulted anyone.

"But let it be remembered, that, subsequent to the date when sulphuric acid was sprayed on Goodman and he had been hospitalized for weeks at an expense of \$8,500, when his spirit was broken and he was unable longer to endure the constant thought of further physical harm, these defendants sat in a union court at the Plymouth Hotel and before that court stood Goodman.

"Bandaged, disfigured, trembling and afraid, he made compliance with the decree then and there pronounced against him.

"These defendants should now yield themselves to the execution of the law they defied. Let each defendant surrender himself to the custody of the marshal for execution of their respective sentences."

## Newark Furrier Paid \$15,000 a Year

When the fear of the Leopard and Gurrach Jake really was instilled in a man, it was no hangover. It wouldn't fade. Take the case of Philip Singer, president of a big Newark fur house, who testified he paid an initiation fee of \$1,500 and \$15,000 a year to the F. D. P. C.

"What for?" demanded John Harlan Amen, Special Prosecutor.

"For stabilization in the industry," rejoined Singer.

Amen tried to get the witness to be a little more definite about "stabilization" but Singer hemmed and hawed, ducked and evaded until Judge Knox cried out in exasperation:

"Quit your dodging and fooling around and answer these questions!"

Yet the authority of United States Court proved less impelling than fear of modified murder and mayhem.

## Official of Firm Stabbed in Back, Then He Pays

cuter got much more out of the witness, Singer.

Irving Potash, assistant manager of the Left Wing Needle Trades Workers Union, provided an illuminating sketch of Lepke-Gurrach methods. This is the union, it will be remembered, whose top official, Morris Langer, was assassinated by a bomb.

## 'Mr. Gurrach IS The Association'

Subsequently, Potash recounted, he was summoned to a Seventh ave. hotel in September, 1932, to treat with Sam Mittelman, president of the F. D. P. C. Here is his recital of the meeting:

"I was surprised to see another man with Sam Mittelman. It was Mr. Gurrach. I said to Mittelman: 'I came to see you and I won't have any dealings with anybody else.'

"Then Mr. Gurrach spoke up. He said to me: 'Potash you will have to deal with me whether you like it or not!'

"Mittelman said: 'Yes, Mr. Gurrach IS the association.'

"After we talked a while, Mittelman, trying to be clever, referred to the murder of Mr. Langer. He said to me: 'Wasn't it unfortunate, that killing of Langer?' Of course I said it was unfortunate and then Mittelman, he says to me:

"Don't you think we ought to avoid any repetition of this sort of difficulty?"

"I was very clear in the manner that he insinuated just what he meant!"

Oscar Yeager, of Yeager, Siegel & Co., fur dressers, was asked what happened when he declined to play ball with Crime, Inc.

## 'Stabbed in Back,' Recalcitrant Says

"I was stabbed in the back; my hand was almost cut off. I spent 20 days in the hospital," Yeager testified.

Before the Federal Grand Jury Max Kudler, former clerk at the Allied Muskrat Dressers' Association, identified a photograph of the Leopard as that of the gentleman who had a hot session one day with an official of the association.

Lepke was told to stand so Kudler could make the identification for the benefit of the jury.

"Now that I've seen the man I see that I made a mistake. It isn't the same fellow," mumbled Kudler.

In the jury's absence Judge Knox rejected a motion to dismiss the charges against the Leopard and gave his opinion of Kudler's right-about-face.

"The witness is evidently lying; I'll let the case go to the jury," the court said.

The defense proffered no evidence whatsoever. The jury found both Lepke and Gurrach guilty. The U. S. Circuit Court, then presided over by Judge Martin T. Manton, reversed Lepke's conviction. Gurrach is serving out his sentence. Lepke was released on bail, skipped, is a fugitive now.

(Tomorrow's installment of "Lepke, Leopard of the Rackets," takes up the drug smuggling charges which led to his indictment by the Federal Government, another account the Leopard must settle when, and

DIVISION.

Sept. 4



## Jury Launches U. S. Crime Drive

Special Panel Sworn in N.Y.

Sifts Case of Lepke,  
Fugitive Racketeer

NEW YORK, Aug. 7 (U.P.).

The Federal Government formally opened its greatest crime war today with the swearing in of a special grand jury which will act on 500,000 pages of evidence gathered by G-men during the past two years.

First case considered in the star chamber session was that of the fugitive Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, \$1,000,000 industrial racketeer and suspected narcotics "king." The swarthy gang chief is accused of trying to kill all possible witnesses against him—five already are dead—and his case was considered most urgent.

In tracking down Lepke, the Government has made it clear that it will ask the indictment of all who have harbored or otherwise aided him in his flight, even physicians who might treat him for the kidney and rheumatic ailments from which he suffers.

The city's board of estimate today raised the price on Lepke's head from \$5,000 to \$25,000. A \$5,000 reward also has been offered by the Federal Government. The board also offered a \$5,000 reward for the arrest of the slayers of Isadore Penn, who apparently was mistaken by the killers for an associate of Lepke.

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Gurnea .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Pennington .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Miss Gandy .....

# 5 Gangsters Help Hunt for Lepke

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Carson.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Gurnea.....
Mr. Hendon.....
Mr. Lester.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Nease.....
Mr. Gandy.....

CLIPPING FROM  
NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL -  
AMERICAN.

DATE. **AUG 8 1939**

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

*Sect. 4*

# Dewey Gets Inside Story Of Lepke

Fugitive's Chance  
of Dodging Trap  
Appears Slim

Five men who are accusing Louis (Lepke) Buchalter of crimes from murder down today brought nearer the capture or surrender of the country's No. 1 fugitive.

All five underworld figures who knew The Leopard well, are telling virtually everything they know to District Attorney Dewey, the New York Journal and American. With a \$50,000 price on his head, his avenues of revenue being blocked, his one-time associates talking to save themselves and the G-Men seeking his trail, Lepke's chances of dodging the net appeared slim.

## SEE SURRENDER LIKELY.

In fact, the drive against crime has taken on such proportions that authorities would not be surprised if Lepke gave himself up within a few days. Reports continue to circulate that he will do just this rather than face a capture that might not be too gentle.

The five who have turned against him are:

Morris Goldis.  
William (Wolfie) Goldis.  
Max Silverman.  
Abe Cohen.  
"Big Harry" Schoenhaus.

## DEWEY'S CHIEF WEAPONS.

They are the principal weapons being used by District Attorney Dewey in the race by city, county and government authorities to bring in The Leopard.

Dewey does not have a clear field, however. The Special Federal Grand Jury, empowered to make a nationwide survey of crime, meets today to begin hearing witnesses and some 500,000 pages of evidence compiled by the G-men. Special details of police have

been assigned to the "get-Lepke" drive and today they were broadcasting 1,000,000 posters announcing the city's increase from \$5,000 to \$25,000 as a reward for the racketeer's capture. The government already has offered \$5,000.

## ZENNREICH SOUGHT.

To further bolster his case, Dewey also is seeking Isidore Zennreich, called the "bag man" for Lepke and who is under indictment with the five who are now talking.

Zennreich, authorities believe, might be induced to talk as well if an eight-State alarm results in his capture.

Of the five, William Goldis, Silverman and Cohen are at "Dewey's Academy," the Bronx Detention Prison, 161st st. and Third ave., where witnesses lead a comparatively comfortable existence, if they are in talkative moods.

## GOLDIS RECUPERATING.

Morris Goldis is recuperating from an emergency operation at Bellevue Hospital. Schoenhaus, one of the State witnesses against James J. Hines, is at liberty, but under police guard.

One man, Samuel Schorr, has refused to turn informant against Lepke. Schorr is in the W. 63d

st. jail where conditions are considerably less pleasant than in the 161st st. prison.

The Goldis brothers offered last year to plead guilty to manslaughter in the killing, Sept. 13, 1934, of William Snyder, president of Local 138 of the Flour and Bakery Drivers' Union. The killing took place at a conference in an Ave. A restaurant.

## LEPKE ORDERED SLAYING.

For that crime, Max Silverman and Sam Schorr were indicted with the Goldis brothers. At the time of the Snyder murder, Lepke and his partner, Jacob (Gurrah) Shapiro, were members of the conference. Morris Goldis has told Dewey's investigators that the murder was ordered by Lepke because Snyder would not "deliver" his local to the racket syndicate.

From Abraham (Abe) Cohen, a lawyer convicted by Dewey in 1937 as one of the ringleaders of the \$2,000,000 restaurant racket headed by the late Dutch Schultz, the District Attorney has been getting a wealth of information of Lepke's State and nation-wide connections with racketeering.

Cohen, who was sentenced to 10 to 20 years in prison, has the reputation of knowing more about the inter-relation of rackets and Lepke's leadership in them, than any other man in the country.



LOUIS (LEPKE) BUCHALTER

## \$30,000 'Price' Put on Head of Fugitive Lepke

NEW YORK, Aug. 8.—(AP)—Somewhere in hiding Tuesday is a middle-aged man with a \$30,000 price on his head.

He is Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, 42, a stocky, swarthy, big-nosed gangster—newest wearer of the ever-shifting title, "Public Enemy No. 1."

J. Edgar Hoover, G-man chief whose men have hunted Lepke for two years, will pay \$5,000 for him.

District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey—thanks to action Monday by the City Board of Estimate—has raised New York's ante to \$25,000.

Both Hoover and Dewey have promised to keep secret the name of the person who "puts the finger" on Lepke, and the reward will be paid whether the fugitive racketeer, held responsible by Dewey for the slaying of five former associates since he jumped \$10,000 bail, is captured dead or alive.

THE ATLANTA JOURNAL

August 8, 1939

In the hope of obtaining a lead to Lepke's whereabouts, Dewey ordered an eight-state alarm for Isidore Zennreich, 41, a partner of Lepke and Jacob (Gurrah) Shapiro in the days when they dominated the baking and garment industry rackets here.

The search for Lepke was just one angle of an assault against a national "confederacy of crime" undertaken by a federal grand jury impaneled Monday by United States Attorney John T. Cahill. To begin immediate consideration of an 86-volume "Encyclopedia of Crime" prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Hoover, FBI chief, is taking personal command of the investigative end of the "anti-crime" drive.

Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Crowl .....  
Mr. Hagg .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Sears .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

60-1501-A  
Sed. 4 IV

## NATIONWIDE DRIVE ON CRIME IS PUT UNDER WAY HERE

New Federal Grand Jury  
Starts Work and \$25,000  
Is on Lepke's Head.

The countywide drive against crime and criminals began in earnest today, the last of the preliminaries having been disposed of with the impaneling of a Federal crime Grand Jury and the posting by the city of a \$25,000 bounty on Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, the nation's No. 1 fugitive, who brought the campaign to a head.

The twenty-three men selected to serve on the Federal investigating body before Judge Edward A. Conger, organized yesterday and stood ready to tackle the vast record of crime prepared for them when they convene at 2 P. M. today.

Unhampered by city, county or State lines, this Grand Jury will be able to hear witnesses from all over the nation during its ninety-day session. While its activities are being carried on under great secrecy it was understood that subpoenas have been issued requiring the appearance before it within the next few days of witnesses from as far off as Cleveland, Miami and Los Angeles.

### Hoover Here to Help

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is here to take personal charge of the work the FBI is doing to assist United States Attorney John T. Cahill and the Grand Jury.

District Attorney Dewey, who has intensified his search for the missing Lepke, made this statement after the Board of Estimate complied unanimously to his request that the reward for the racketeer be increased:

"Twenty-five thousand dollars will now be paid by the City of New York for information leading to the capture of Lepke.

"My office and that of Capt. Conrad Rothengast are open twenty-four hours a day. The person who gives the information leading to Lepke's arrest will be fully protected, his identity will never be revealed, and information will be received with absolute confidence."

The board at the same time approved a reward of \$5,000 for the capture of the slayers of Irving Penn, music firm executive presumably mistaken for a former Lepke associate.

Mr. Dewey disclosed yesterday that at his request the police had sent out an eight-State alarm for Isidore Zennreich, one-time Lepke partner indicted with him in 1933 of charges in connection with the bakery racket.

Clipping from *Chicago Tribune*

AUG 1 1935

RECEIVED BY THE DIVISION

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER**  
**60-1501 SUB A SECTION 13**

# Mal Harney • Treasure

By Harry Gabbett  
Staff Reporter

The Treasury Department will retire one of its storied T-men this month, with the "T" in this case standing for tops.

He is Malachi L. Harney, 58, of 4325 Verplanck st. n.w., and only two decades ago the news of his retirement might well have inspired a lot of unholy rejoicing in some vicious circles.

Among some of the calmest murderers of a not-so-bygone era, mere mention of Mal Harney's name provoked cases of incurable jitters. Among policemen the world over, he has been revered as "a cop's cop."

Conversely, however, and somewhat ironically, the well-behaved workaday world — so much the more liveable for his efforts — almost knows him not. He flourished in an age which rewarded anonymity with longevity.

Behind him are 36 years of fantastic Federal policeman-ship, the last 20 or so in administrative posts which led to the one he now leaves with as little fanfare as he gained them — technical assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement.

Into retirement he takes the hard-to-get-at accounts of key parts he has played in the denouements of a dozen underworld dynasties, including the incredibly infamous, Brooklyn-based, manslaughtering syndicate — Murder, Inc.

Far too many people still recall with an involuntary shudder the name of the late Louis (Lepke) Buchalter. Yet, far too many others are too young to know profitably of the ruin he wrought, or the heroics his underworld reign inspired those charged with the peace of human order in actions.

Retired in March 4, after eight years in Brooklyn candy store keeper.



Staff Photo  
**MALACHI L. HARNEY**  
... plans retirement

Directly or indirectly, however, authorities had implicated him in at least 30 other slayings — cold-blooded killings carried out at cut rates for those who had simply wished the victims out of the way.

He was wanted for murder, extortion and a whole series of violations lumped under the general heading of racketeering. In the course of the two years he was in "hiding," police officials sworn to bring him in were bought off and paid for their silence on his whereabouts — the while Lepke henchmen ranged abroad on the grim business of eradicating every last man who could possibly testify against him.

In his own boasting words, he "never left Manhattan."

In the modest recollection of Mal Harney, "Lepke made only one mistake." He aroused the official interest of the Treasury Department in his activities.

Harney was in narcotics at the time, he recalled, tackling anything or anybody that came his jurisdictional way in that insidious traffic.

"Actually," he remembered, "Lepke's decision to cut himself in on the international narcotics traffic was a casual

one, made almost in jest. It was an insignificant, passing interest but it sufficed to arouse ours in him — and one thing sort of led to another and all of them led us to Lepke."

The next thing the bewildered gang overlord knew, he was serving a 14-year term for violation of the Federal Narcotics laws and a dozen legal mouthpieces were shouting into rain-barrels all the way up to the United States Supreme Court in vain efforts to effect his release.

Eventually, New York had so ordered its own house that it was able to petition President Roosevelt for another chance at the fish it had been unable to land. Lepke was a sitting duck. The hot seat at Sing Sing cooled off only rarely as a steady procession of Murder, Inc., principals slumped, staggered, or were carried into its high voltage arms.

Lepke himself went quietly the last of three to pay with

their lives for the candy store keeper's murder.

Even had the switch been defective, or a political lightning bolt laid low his executioners at the last moment, Lepke sat a doomed man in that chair — still liable for the rest of the 14 years prison time he owed Mal Harney and his T-men.

It is possible that Lepke died unable to put his finger on the man who fingered him — on the man from whose lips today drop easily such half-forgotten names as Harry (Happy) Malone, Harry (Pittsburgh Phil) Strauss, Frank (The Dasher) Abbadando, Martin (Buggsy) Goldstein, Max (The Jerk) Gollob, Louis (No Relation) Capone, Emanuel (Mendy) Weiss, and Abe (Kid Twist) Reles.

Harney himself makes sparse use of the so-called vertical pronoun "I." His accounts of his exploits as a top-echelon T-man call consistently for the use of "we" and "our" — a tribute to the singleness of purpose with which he worked.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

... name of Duluth, Harney took a degree in education from the University of Minnesota. A turn at teaching everything from physics to physical education in high schools of the vicinity, was interrupted by a tour of World War I duty with the Marine Corps.

He entered the Treasury enforcement field, he said, "because I felt like so many others who came out of World War I that the peacetime world held little enough action for a man who craved it — and I wanted to be where that little action was."

His rise through the ranks was rapid and he has been serving in administrative capacities since 1936. His last turn as a "cop on the beat" was a typical one. He went out to St. Paul a few years ago to "help out" with a case involving the slaying of a T-man.

He leaves the service with two enforcement gods still shining brightly in his lexicon of flesh-and-blood policemen.

They are Narcotics Commissioner Harry Anslinger and the late Elmer T. Irey, chief of the Treasury Department's Intelligence Division. He considers them "two of the completest policemen of our generation."

His own plans for the future are facetiously "indefinite."

"Whenever things are left up to your wife," he explains, "it's always safe to call them 'indefinite.'"

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE  
SUNDAY, 1/1/56

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# LEPKE TO BE RESENTENCED

He and Two Others to Be Condemned Again on July 20

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
OSSINING, July 2—Orders have been issued, it was learned today, directing that Emanuel Weiss, 36 years old, and Louis Capone, 46, Sing Sing deathhouse prisoners, and Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, 45, a Federal prisoner in Manhattan, be produced before the State Court of Appeals in Albany on Tuesday morning, July 20, to be resentedenced to death.

The three, convicted of the murder of Joseph Rosen, a shopkeeper, in Brooklyn, have lost appeals to the United States Supreme Court. Warden Robert J. Kirby of Sing Sing is directed to produce Weiss and Capone and Warden Edward Thompson of the Federal House of Detention in Manhattan, to bring Buchalter to court.

It is twenty-eight years since a condemned prisoner had to be taken out of the deathhouse for resentence. Charles Stielow, in 1915, had that experience, but his sentence eventually was commuted to life imprisonment, and later he was pardoned.

Buchalter, a prisoner in Federal custody because of a narcotics law violation, has not yet been placed in the deathhouse.

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This is a clipping from page 13 of the New York Times for

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Clipped at the Seat of Government.

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Sub A Sect. 13



## 'Gurrah' Shapiro Dies at 50 In Sing Sing; Was a 'Lifer'

Continued from Page 3

arrested as a suspect in the killing of August (Little Augie) Pisano and Jack (Legs) Diamond, but was released each time for lack of evidence.

He had long been a sufferer from a heart ailment. At the time of his last sentence, he was so overwrought that he swallowed seven "booster" pills before declaring he was just being persecuted, "because I'm a big shot." He is survived by his wife, Anne, of 1415 E. 45th St., Brooklyn.

A native of Minsk, Russia, Shapiro's age was always uncertain, various records indicating he was born in 1895, 1896 and 1899. His own opinion was that he was born in 1897. He came to the United States in 1907.

His nickname, "Gurrah!" was a contraction of a favorite phrase he picked up as he started to win his living by violence and threats of violence. It was his way of saying, "Get out of here!"

His police record dated from 1915.

Fat and lazy, but violent, Shapiro had a variety of "fronts," but all were operated in the same way—extorting money from other businesses in the same line by threatening to kill their proprietors, beat them up, throw acid on their stock, bomb their premises or stir up fake "labor trouble."

After starting in on pushcart peddlers in his youth, he met Lepke. Together they used such methods successfully in slot machines, restaurants, furs, clothing and narcotics.

Shapiro skipped bail of \$10,000 in 1938, following his conviction on a Federal charge of trust law violation, and consorted with such glamorized gangs as those of "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Alvin Karpis, in the Midwest, until he decided, "I'm tired of having the G-men so close to me," and surrendered.

During his entire career, Shapiro was arrested 17 times, but only imprisoned three times.

Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

# 'Gurrah' Shapiro Dies While Doing 'Life' Term

A life term turned out to be three years and one month, as Jacob "Gurrah" Shapiro, once rated New York's Public Enemy No. 1, died in Sing Sing Prison hospital at 4 a. m. yesterday, a victim of heart disease, at the age of 50.

Though his name was always linked with that of his racketeer sidekick, Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, Shapiro was a lonesome leftover of the "racket" days in New York when he entered Sing Sing May 9, 1944, to serve a sentence of 15 years to life. "Lepke" had been executed two months earlier for a killing in Brooklyn. Shapiro pleaded guilty to one count of an indictment accusing him of extorting \$500,000 from

employers and unions in the garment trucking industry. Earlier, with Buchalter, he had served a Federal term for a \$1,000,000-a-year racket in the fur industry.

Though he was referred to by the Department of Justice at one time as "the most vicious killer in New York," Shapiro had never been convicted on a murder charge. He had, however, been

Continued on Page 3

VICTIM OF HEART DISEASE



Jacob (Gurrah) Shapiro  
Ends life term in three years.

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New York Daily Mirror  
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# SUIT FOR \$3,000,000 CHARGES FUR PLOT

**'Outside' Lining Contractors  
Accuse Union Council and  
Manufacturers' Group**

A conspiracy by fur manufacturers and unionized fur workers to put out of business "outside" fur lining contractors was charged in a suit seeking \$3,000,000 damages that was filed in Federal Court yesterday by the American Fur Lining Contractors Association, Inc., an organization of fifteen fur-lining contractors.

Names as defendants in the suit were the Furriers Joint Council of New York, a delegated body representing seven Congress of Industrial Organizations locals, and the Associated Fur Coat and Trimming Manufacturers Association, comprised of 700 individuals and concerns that make 75 per cent of the fur coats and fur garments in the United States.

The action charges that the conspiracy is in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, is aimed at destroying the property rights of the plaintiff companies and has adversely affected the public interest by increasing the prices of fur garments and reducing production.

The conspiracy has been carried out, it is charged, by threats to the plaintiffs of "physical violence and destruction of their business unless they discontinue offering their services to manufacturers of fur garments." The defendants, it is alleged, have directed manufacturers under penalty of heavy fines to refrain from using the services of the plaintiffs.

The suit sets forth that the Furriers Council, which controls 98 per cent of the fur workers in the New York area, has refused to permit its members to work for the plaintiff contractors.

**Plan to Socialize Industry Alleged**

Samuel Mezansky, one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs, said that the United States Supreme Court had held in two recent cases that the Sherman Act was applicable to a conspiracy between a labor union and a business group. "The suit poses the question," he said, "whether a labor union acting with a business group may determine who may or may not continue in business."

Mr. Mezansky said that the union for years had attempted to eliminate the fur lining contractors and to designate the manufacturers who may continue in business. He declared that the union "has embarked upon a comprehensive plan for the socialization of the fur industry, a plan that is being carried out by force, violence, strikes, boycotts and numerous other methods."

After the cutting of a fur garment by the manufacturer, the lining and finishing is done by persons known in the trade as "closers." The finishing may be done either by an "inside" contractor, who is brought into the manufacturer's plant, or by "outside" contractors like the plaintiffs. The complaint says that 75 per cent of the finishing is done by "outside" contractors.

The conspiracy to put the "outside" contractors out of business, according to the complaint, began on Jan. 1, 1942.

The plaintiffs contend that they have been willing to employ union workers under conditions negotiated with the Furriers Council but the council has threatened its affiliated locals with fines and expulsion if their members work for the "outside" contractors.

Besides the \$3,000,000 damages, the suit asks for a temporary injunction enjoining the defendants from interfering with the plaintiffs in the marketing of their services, and for an order striking out of union contracts provisions prohibiting manufacturers from employing "outside" contractors.

Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Glavin.....  
Mr. Ladd.....  
Mr. Nichols.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Mr. Tracy.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Gurnea.....  
Mr. Harbo.....  
Mr. Mohr.....  
Mr. Pennington.....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....

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58 JUN 25 1947

CLIPPING FROM THE

N. Y. Times

DATED JUN 11 1947

FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

sub. A sect. B

# Brooklyn Slaying Bares Fight for Murder, Inc., Rule

Smoldering rivalry over control of the remnants of Murder, Inc., flared into the open early yesterday with a hail of bullets that ended the life of Jack (The Ox) Finkel, victim of Brooklyn's first gangland killing since the lush days of Lepke Buchalter's slay-for-pay syndicate.

Shortly after the pudgy body of Finkel pitched into a gutter outside the Embassy Rest, a night club at 1650 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, police arrested Louis (Babe) Silvers, former preliminary prizefighter, whom they described as self-appointed successor to Lepke in Brooklyn's Brownsville section.

Booked at the Vanderveer Park police station on a homicide charge, Silvers was to be arraigned today in Brooklyn Felony Court along with Lila Harris, 20, of 276 Troy Ave., Brooklyn, who was with Silvers when he was arrested and was held as a material witness.

## Can't Talk in Lineup.

In the lineup this morning Silvers was unable to respond coherently to a query by Acting Capt. Edward Dillon if he had made a statement to the district attorney, explaining by signs that something had happened to his voice.

"Well, let us know by some means," Capt. Dillon said.

Silvers nodded assent.

Police said they learned that Finkel, 45, bookmaker and ex-convict, had quarreled with Silvers in the restaurant shortly before the shooting. Four cartridges from a 32-caliber automatic were found near the body and close to his hand was a loaded 38-caliber pistol, believed to belong to Finkel.

Silvers, who gave his age as 29 and his address as 50 Lefferts Ave., Brooklyn, was arrested in Beth-El Hospital, where, accompanied by Miss Harris, he had applied for treatment of lacerations over the right eye and in the scalp. Police quoted Miss Harris as saying she had met Silvers on a date.

## Parked Car Found.

Capt. John C. McGowan of the Brooklyn Homicide Squad, said an automobile belonging to Silvers' wife was parked across the street from the night club and that the ignition keys were in Miss Harris' purse.

Capt. McGowan expressed the belief that Finkel, whose police record dates back to 1921, got into trouble over bookmaking activities with the gang seeking to take over Lepke's old domain. Silvers has a record of six arrests and served a term in Elmira Reformatory in 1932 for felonious assault, police said. He is a brother of Joseph Silvers, killed in a gang shooting in 1933.

*File in  
60-1501*

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Acers \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Starnes \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_

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55 JUN 29 1944

and a topcoat. The killer got in the back seat and Walter pointed the car for 28th Street. His nerves were now twanging like harp strings. He knew 18,000 city cops had memorized the wanted man's face. He was afraid some stool pigeon might have tipped off Dewey's men and that the story of the year would be snatched away from him.

As they rounded a corner, Walter heard what he thought was a tremendous crash of glass. Lepke had thrown away the dark glasses he had used for disguise. But to the jumpy columnist it sounded like a truck going through a store window.

At 28th Street, Winchell pulled up behind the parked FBI car. Hoover was sitting alone in the back seat. Walter led Lepke over. "Get in, Mr. Buchalter," said the G-man, who never addresses a criminal by his nickname. "Where are your high and mighty friends now?"

"I'm beginning to wonder," muttered Lepke, as the driver turned south toward Foley Square and FBI headquarters.

At 13th Street, Hoover nudged Winchell and said, "Get out of the car."

"What do you mean, get out?" snapped the columnist, not getting it. "I thought this was my . . ."

"Right," said the G-man. "If the newspaper guys around headquarters see me with you and Lepke they'll beat you to your own story."

"Thanks, John," said Walter, and got out.

The columnist found himself in a deserted business section. He ran for blocks before he found an open bar with a phone booth. Finally he got his night city editor on the wire.

"This is Winchell," he panted. "Here's your page one story. Lepke has surrendered! I just turned him over to John Edgar Hoover!"

"Take it easy, Walter," said the man at the desk. "Your yarn isn't making the front page tonight. Stalin just signed a pact with Adolf Hitler."

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Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Acers \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Starke \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

# Pitching Horseshoes By Billy Rose

In the summer of '39, the law was staging its biggest man hunt since the Lindbergh case. It was looking for Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, Enemy No. 1, who had been hiding out for two years. The State of New York had pinned a \$25,000 price tag on him. On his way-up prosecutor Tom Dewey wanted Lepke for extortion and 80 murders. John Edgar Hoover wanted him just as badly, though only for narcotic and income-tax shenanigans.



Assorted bloodhounds were breathing hard on gangland's dirty necks. High-ranking hoods finally told Lepke he'd have to do something to bring the heat down to room temperature.

The fugitive figured it would be better to face the milder Federal rap. Besides, John Edgar wasn't hankering to try on the Governor's hat for size.

One night, a member of the black-fingernail set sidled up to Walter Winchell. "I hear tell," he said a little too casually, "that Lepke might turn himself in to your friend Hoover, if he knew for sure he wouldn't get roughed up. Especially if there was a delivery boy around he could trust."

The newspaperman inhaled the heady aroma of a page-one scoop. "Well, I'm a pretty trustworthy fellow," said Walter.

For the next three weeks, a different go-between made contact with the columnist every night. Walter, who knew everybody, had never seen any of these side-talking ambassadors before. Sometimes they'd pop out of doorways. Sometimes they'd get him on one of the pay phones at the Stork Club. Most of these powwows were conducted between 4:00 and 6:00 in the morning. Winchell

...these fragments of talk to Hoover, who had moved into the Waldorf to be on tap.

After three weeks of this, Hoover got impatient. One night he told Winchell, "If Lepke doesn't surrender in the next 24 hours, I'm going to give my men orders to shoot him on sight."

That did it. Next morning, Winchell got a phone message. "Take your wife's car, the one with the fog lights, and be at Proctor's Theatre in Yonkers at 7:00 tonight." Walter's wife, June, the only person he had confided in, was terrified. She had visions of her husband in a machine-gun crossfire. That afternoon she scattered carpet tacks on the drive, hoping Walter would get a flat when he backed the car out of the garage.

But the tacks didn't take. At a few minutes to seven, Winchell stopped for a traffic light outside Yonkers. A car eased up alongside his. A man slipped out of it and climbed in next to the columnist. "Drive back to town," he said. "Don't be nervous. We only brought you up here to see if there were any cops tailing you."

Back in Manhattan, his passenger told Winchell to park. "Telephone Mr. Hoover," he said. "He's in Room — at the Waldorf. Tell him to be at 28th Street and Fifth Avenue, southeast side, between 10:10 and 10:20."

After the phone call, Walter and the intermediary cruised around to kill time. At 10:00, the man said, "Stop. Let me out here. You go to Madison Square Park and stop at 24th Street. And do me a favor. Give this rabbit's foot to Lepke. Tell him it's from me."

As Walter drove up to the bit of greenery which is Madison Square Park, he saw the light burning on top of the Metropolitan Life Insurance building. "Hope my premiums are up to date," he mumbled. As he leaned forward to snap off the ignition, someone said, "Hello, Walter."

It was Lepke. He had grown a Groucho Marx mustache, mint julep sideburns, and was wearing dark glasses.

6/12/47

File [redacted] b7c

# Terrorism Told To Fur Unions

Memories of the days when Louis (Lepke) Buchalter and (Gurrah) Shapiro ran roughshod over the garment district, terrorizing especially the fur industry, blended yesterday with action by a group of contractors who charged in a \$3,000,000 damage suit filed by Attorney Samuel Mezansky, that a union council and a manufacturers' agency threatened them with physical violence and destruction of their business in a conspiracy.

The suit, also asking an injunction, was filed in Federal Court by the American Fur Liners Contractors Ass'n, set up by 15 fur-lining contractors. The defendants are the Furriers Joint Council of N. Y., representing seven CIO locals, and the Associated Fur Coat and Trimming Manufacturers Ass'n.

Back in the 1920s and 1930s, the Buchalter-Shapiro Murder, Inc., warred on fur dealers who refused to join "protective" agencies. These were threatened, beaten and even blinded in one case. Buchalter died in the electric chair. Shapiro died this week of a heart ailment in Sing Sing.

The fur-lining contractors charged the conspiracy was carried out by threats of "physical violence and destruction of their business unless they discontinue offering services to manufacturers of fur garments." They alleged the Furriers Council refused to permit its members to work for the fur-lining contractors. The latter said the plot began in 1942; that they have been willing to employ union workers, but that the Furriers Council threatened its locals with fines and expulsion of members if they worked for them.

Mezansky said the union for years attempted to eliminate the contractors and designate which manufacturers might continue in business. He said this plan "is being carried out by force, violence, strikes, boycotts and numerous other methods."

①  
The Fur Industry  
Anti-Trust Laws

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- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease

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G.I.R.-5

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